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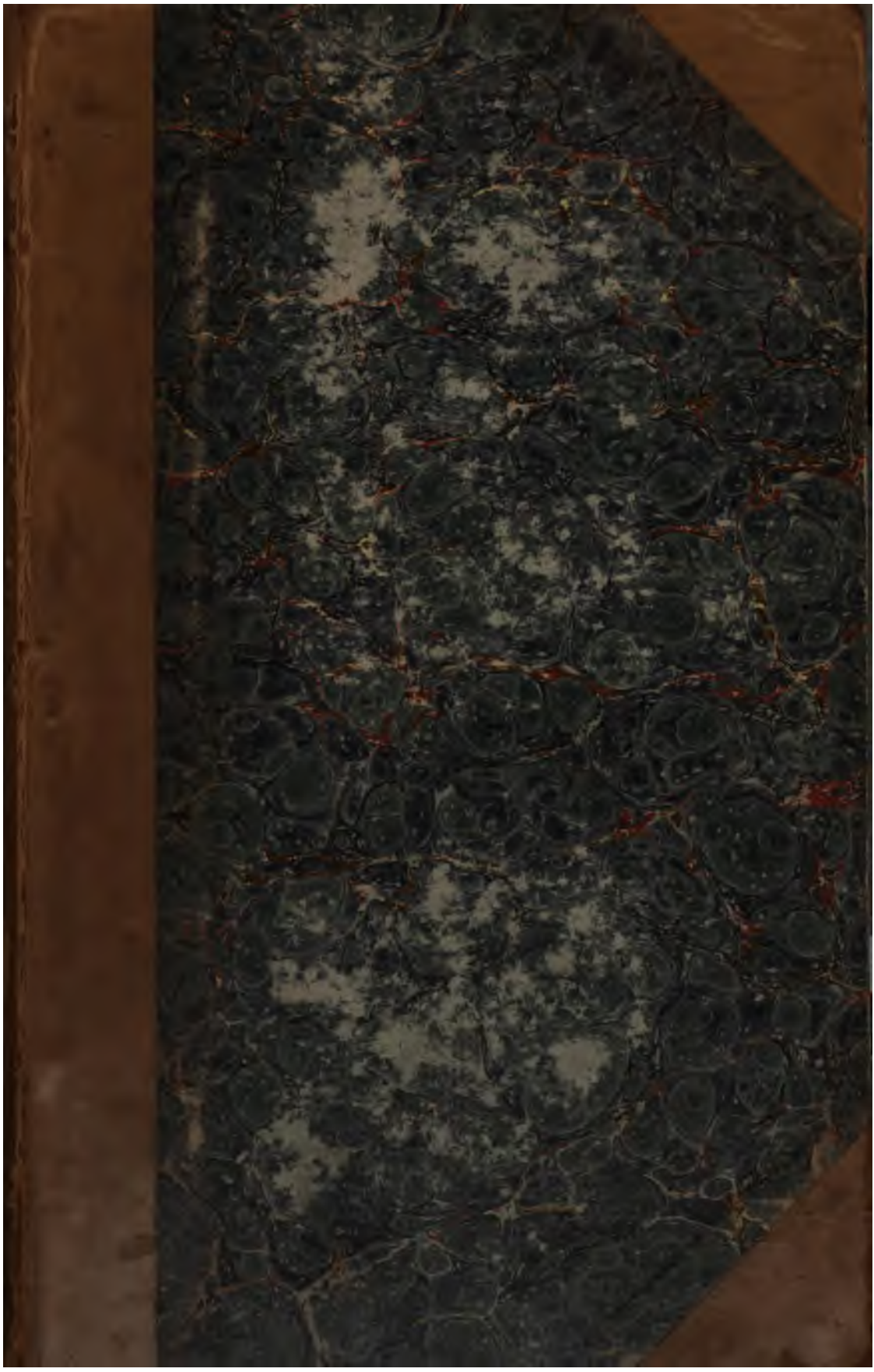

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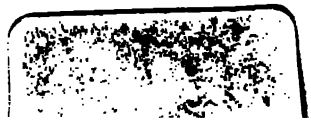

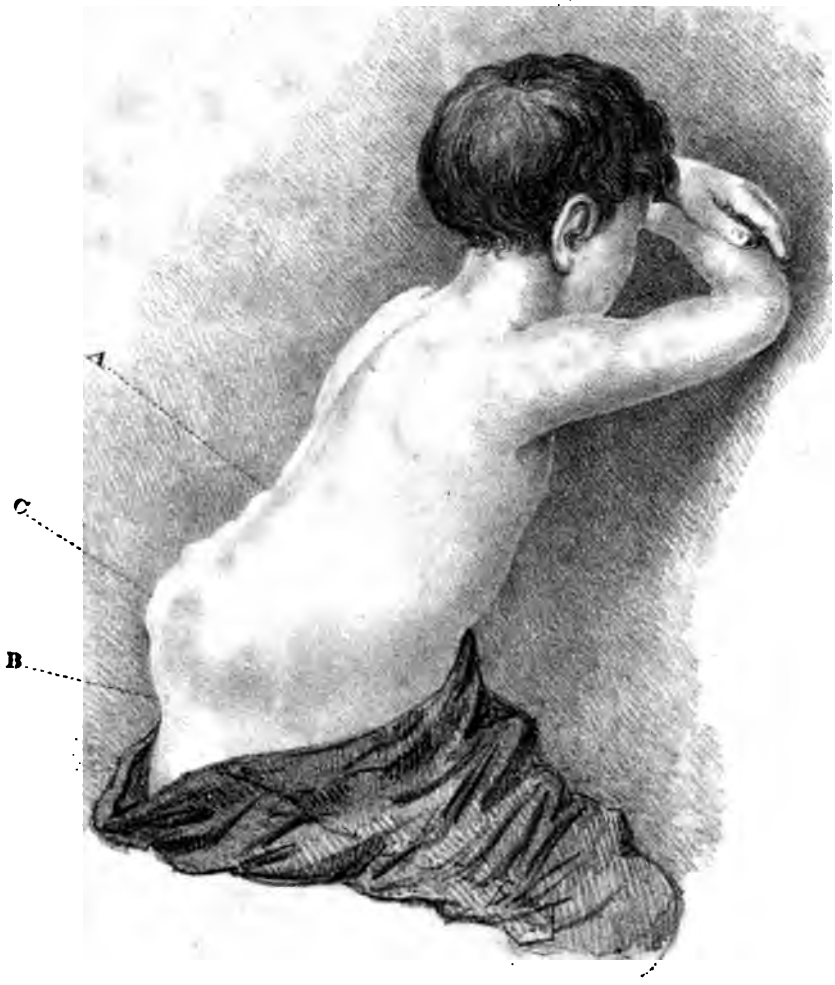

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THE

MONTHLY

GAZETTE OF HEALTH;

OR

MEDICAL, DIETETIC, ANTIEMPIRICAL,

AND

General Philosophical Journal.

BY

RICHARD REECE, M.D.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS; CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE OF PARIS AND VIENNA; AUTHOR OF A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON THE MEANS OF REGULATING THE STOMACH AND BOWELS IN A VARIETY OF AFFECTIONS OF THE STOMACH, INTESTINES, &c.; THE MEDICAL GUIDE; A PRACTICAL TREATISE ON THE ANTIASTHMATIC PROPERTIES OF THE LOBELIA INFLATA, &c. &c. &c.

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PREFACE TO THE FOURTEENTH VOLUME.

On concluding each annual volume of this long-established and popular Journal, the Editors have ever felt it their pleasing duty to express to their numerous professional readers, and to the public, their deep sense of gratitude for the extensive patronage which has rewarded their labours, and for the high estimation and rank in *practical* medicine which their Journal has attained.

When they reflect, that during the year which has just passed away, the circulation of this Journal has increased beyond that of any preceding time,—that its pages have been enriched by a variety of original communications from the most celebrated medical men, and that some of the most distinguished persons, for rank, wealth, and science, throughout Europe, have become either contributors or subscribers, they feel themselves doubly called on to return their thanks for such honourable patronage.

The *Gazette of Health* has hitherto been conducted for two grand objects, those of increasing and rendering accurate medical science and simplifying its practice, and of benefiting the public by the diffusion of useful *practical* information. In attaining the first of these ends, the Editors have exposed the injurious effects of the by-laws of the College of Physicians, in checking the progress of medical science, and the lamentable deficiency of proper medical education and knowledge in the majority of the Fellows of that institution. They have occasionally reprobated the selfish and illiberal system pursued in the great metropolitan hospitals; and above all, have exposed the infamous trade and trickeries of quackery of every kind, whether cloaked under the garb of religion, (as the medical book-trade of the notorious Dr. Graham,) the arrogant assumption of a Fellow of the College of Physicians, or when exhibited on the walls of the metropolis, or in the daily prints. By thus holding up to view the practice of unprincipled men, they have the gratification of knowing, that they have rescued many an afflicted sufferer from the clutches of villains whose nefarious arts would speedily have sent them to their long home.

The Editors have learnt with satisfaction, that the plan they recommended to the public, of remunerating general practitioners for their attendance, instead of requiring them to send an extra quantity of medicine for that purpose, has been generally adopted throughout the country; and that the pretenders, denominating themselves regular physicians or pure surgeons, but who possess little experience, are seldom consulted. The general practitioner now leaves a prescription with his patient, to be compounded by a chemist, thereby maintaining the rank in the profession to which his classical and general education and practical knowledge justly entitle him. The high charges made by some chemists of this metropolis, frequently at the rate of an apothecary who includes the trouble of attendance, militates against this rational system. The Editors strongly advise general practitioners to recommend those chemists only who keep good articles, and charge all compositions according to the real value of the ingredients.*

* At the shops of some chemists, who charge the ingredients of a compound separately, a lotion is only charged, including the bottle, sixpence, which at others, and even at Apothecaries' Hall, was charged two shillings and sixpence. Other mixtures are charged proportionately dear, and certainly not in any respect better prepared.

In conducting this work, the Editors have spared neither trouble nor expense in obtaining valuable *practical* information from the most eminent members of the profession, or in selecting it from the various medical works and journals of science of Europe. The Editors have given their unbiassed opinion, deduced from experience, on all subjects which have engaged their attention. They have also, under the head of *Medical Literature*, introduced short but pithy analyses of the most useful medical works; and have selected, from the hospitals, the most instructive and interesting cases. Their pages have likewise been enriched with accounts of many most potent and useful medicines, employed in South and North America, the East Indies, and other distant countries, as agents for the prevention, alleviation, or cure of disease; and they feel no little pride in considering that their work has been the means of introducing into general practice some of the most valuable medicines now known, as the Round-Leaf Cornel, *(Cornus circinata)* for general debility,—the Bladder-Podded Lobelia *(Lobelia Inflata)*, for asthma,—the Chirayita herb, for nervous indigestion and inactivity of the liver,—the Carragaheen, a nutrient article in cases of pulmonary consumption and general emaciation.

The *Gazette of Health*, therefore, embraces every subject relating to the healing art, whether in regard to the conduct of medical bodies or the practice of medical men, regular or irregular, whether in reference to the knowledge derived from medical works, or from practical experience, of all countries and times.

Among the most valuable communications of this volume may be particularly mentioned the practical remarks on diseases and remedies, by Dr. Kinglake, of Taunton; the numerous communications of Dr. Harrison, on distortions and other irregularities of the spine, and their secondary influence on the nerves of the uterus, &c.; on modes of treating cancer and pulmonary consumption, by Mr. Tuson, and others; the successful employment of galvanism, by Mr. La Beaume, in cases of indigestion attended with an indolent condition of the liver, intestines, &c.; the treatment of distortions of the lower extremities, by Mr. Sheldrake; the peculiar tonic qualities of the round-leaf cornel, by Dr. Robinson, Dr. Blundell, &c.; the beneficial effect of the ergot of rye, in cases of tedious labours from debility, and in preventing after-pain and hemorrhage; the stomachic and deobstruent properties of the chirayita herb, by Dr. Fleming, Dr. Johnson, Dr. Sully, &c. superseding mercury, in cases of obstruction of the liver, &c.; on morphine and strychnine, applied to a blistered surface, in cases of locked jaw and spasm; on chlorine, in scarlet fever; acupuncturation, in anasarca, &c. &c. &c.

The Biographical Sketches, they also flatter themselves, will be found to be not only interesting to the public, but highly instructive to junior practitioners. The department of Quackery, as embracing the exposure of the unprincipled traffic of the impudent quacks, Long St. John Long, the Doctors Jordan, Dr. Graham, and others, with a vast variety of other articles, they have no doubt will prove highly useful to the public.

The Editors have only further to observe, that they shall continue to use their most strenuous exertions in rendering their future pages as perfect as possible, and they flatter themselves, that, from the number and practical excellence of the original communications which are already in their hands, from different quarters of the globe, and from the nature of the plans which they have been enabled to form, for collecting information of every kind, the succeeding volumes will surpass, in interest and utility, any which has yet appeared of this extensively circulated Journal.

8, *Bolton Row, May Fair, Dec.* 26, 1829.

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THE MORAL & PHYSICAL TREATMENT OF INFANTS.

By Dr. DEWEES, OF PHILADELPHIA.

(CONTINUED FROM P. 374.)

Feeding of Infants during the First Month.

THE fifteenth instruction I have given is one of much importance to the future health and happiness of the individual; for it is one of the greatest errors I have attempted to correct. I have assumed as principles, and I think on broad and well established data—1st, that the woman is the proper and *only* source from whence a child, until a certain period, should derive its nourishment; 2dly, that every woman, *cæteris paribus*, is able to furnish it; and 3dly, that no other nourishment is so entirely proper as the milk of a healthy mother.

If these premises be correct, the subject of feeding children within the first month is reduced nearly to a prohibition, wherever there is no exception to the above rules. Yet there may be, indeed there *often* is, a propriety in giving a young child something to sustain it, where there is not a sufficiently early provision made by the breasts of the mother for this purpose; and it should consist of an article as near in composition as possible to the mother's milk. This object is readily attained by a mixture of cow's milk, water, and loaf-sugar, in the following proportions:—milk two-thirds, water one-third, and a small quantity of loaf sugar.* This may be given from time to time, until the mother is able to furnish a sufficiency; or when she has not enough, it may be made to supply the deficiency.

I am aware I do not agree with the *judicious* Dr. Struve on this point. He directs, in case of deficiency of milk on the part of the mother or nurse, that this want should be supplied by a "pap prepared of bread *perfectly* baked, or, what is still better, biscuits boiled in water, or fresh milk, to the consistence of thin gruel." I unhesitatingly declare, I have ever found this to be a bad practice; and the Doctor himself would seem to bear testimony against it in another place; for he says, "many mothers, and nurses in general, imagine that a child cannot be supported by the breast alone, and therefore ought to be allowed a more substantial nutriment. Impressed with this erroneous

* We would recommend barley-water to be employed in lieu of water; and if the child be purged, or acidity should prevail in the stomach, about one-twelfth of lime water to be added. This addition not only neutralizes the acid matter, but, with the barley-water, prevents the formation of a strong curd in the stomach, which frequently disorders the stomach, bowels, and nervous system, and sometimes occasions convulsions and fever.

notion, they provide the usual pap almost as soon as the child is born; a species of food directly opposite to that which is appointed by nature, and derived from a healthy mother; hence it cannot fail to prove injurious."

"From this pernicious practice," continues Dr. Struve, "arise inflations of the bowels, gripes, and costiveness. Such children become afflicted with insupportable pains in the bowels, the iliac passion, and subsequently with rickets: they obviously lose strength and muscular energy, notwithstanding all the care of plentiful feeding; their skin loosely covers their bones," &c. This is truly a hideous picture; but it is nevertheless true; yet, with this before him, he did not fail, two pages before, to recommend this very substance.

Every farinaceous substance in a state of fluid mixture is liable to become acid, or to ferment, when heated even by a lower temperature than that of the human body, if sufficiently long continued; consequently, the child must experience all the evils which may follow such changes, when they take place in the stomach; therefore all such substances must be highly improper. It may, however, be asked, will not the mixture just proposed be liable to the same objection? I say, No—at least, not to the same extent as the other; for if the milk be sweetened no more than to correspond in degree with the mother's milk; if it be sweetened with *loaf* sugar, and given as soon as mixed, there will be very little disposition in it to change, before the stomach will exert its influence upon it, and convert it into a new substance. Dr. Cadogan says, "there are many faults in the quality of the food of children—it is not simple enough. Their paps, panados, gruels, &c. are generally enriched with sugar, spice, and sometimes a drop of wine; neither of which they ought ever to taste." I perfectly agree, that neither spices nor wine should ever enter into the composition of a child's food; but cannot consent, that *sugar* should be omitted, since nature herself has largely furnished it in the mother's milk. I have ever found this article not only a useful, but a desirable addition to the food of a child. I really believe that it does not happen once in a million of times, that sugar is not acceptable to children of all ages. It is proper it should be so, since it is highly nutritious. If sugar be improper, why does it so largely enter into the composition of the early food of all animals? It is in vain physicians declaim against this article, since it forms between seven and eight per cent. of the mother's milk.*

To make, however, the mixture of milk, water, and sugar always acceptable to the child's stomach, several highly important rules should be observed, and never departed from, when their adoption is practicable.

1stly, The milk should be pure; that is, not skimmed, nor previously reduced by water; and should be used as quickly as possible, especially in warm weather, after it has been drawn from the cow.

2dly, When practicable, it should always be taken from the same cow.

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* There is much difference between animal and vegetable sugar. The addition of lime water, as we have recommended in the preceding page, prevents the production of acid matter from sugar.

The reasons for this injunction are, that cows, although feeding upon the same materials, give different qualities of milk; and the stomach becomes reconciled very often more readily to any one certain quality than to a mixture.

3dly, The milk should be given as soon as possible after its mixture with the water and sugar, lest it should be disposed to ferment before it is exhibited.

4thly, It should never be mixed, but when wanted; and no more should be mixed than the child will take in a short time; for it is much better to prepare fresh, than to run the risk of its becoming sour before it is used.

5thly. The milk should never be heated by the fire; it should always be done by adding the water hot, or by a sand bath; this will give it a sufficient temperature, without incurring the liability to be overheated by being placed on the fire.

6thly. When the weather is unfavourable for keeping milk, it should be placed in the coolest place that can be commanded; or kept in often renewed cold water.

7thly. Should the slightest tendency to acidity be observed in the milk, it should be rejected without hesitation; nor should an attempt be made at its supposed restoration, by using an additional quantity of sugar, as this will eventually increase the evil.

I cannot declaim too loudly against the filthy and oftentimes injurious practice of a nurse making every particle of the child's victuals pass through her own mouth. The only reason offered for this disgusting habit is, to prevent its being given too warm—this, I grant, is a necessary and useful precaution; but it can be easily arrived at without the aid of her mouth, by adding hot water to the milk, as already directed, instead of placing it over the fire.

Care should also be taken that the infant be not over fed; it is much better it be fed often, than it should receive too much at a time; for the child, when it is fed, cannot exercise the discretion it is wont to do when it sucks; for when it has received enough by its own exertions, it will stop spontaneously.

Of Observances towards the Mother during the first month, &c.—If the directions I have given for the general conduct of the mother during labour, and immediately after her delivery, be strictly observed, it will rarely happen that she will not have what is called "a good getting up." This "good getting up" consists in the gradual restoration of health, by a return of strength, through the proper exercise of the functions of the stomach, and the judicious employment of the various muscles of the body.

To insure the healthy action of the stomach, and of the muscular and nervous system, the patient should be managed in such manner as will probably *prevent* the occurrence of disease, rather than be treated as if the evil were absolutely present. For this purpose, frequent changes of linen, and of every other solid article, is absolutely necessary, that there may be no offensive effluvia, so as to contaminate the air of the room, and render it unfit for the purposes of respiration.

Fresh air should therefore be freely admitted into the room; but the patient should not be exposed to a currency. Unfortunately for

the interest of the patient, the nurse thinks for her on this subject; and effectually to guard against the possibility of such an accident, she encloses her in a space of six feet square by curtains, and condemns her to the horrors and mischiefs of breathing twenty times the air that has already been often discharged from her lungs.

One of the greatest improvements the lying-in room could receive, would be to banish curtains from the list of the "*indispensables*" for furnishing it—or at least, so to manage them, as to make them subservient to ornament alone. The pretexts for the employment of curtains are, firstly, "the bed looks naked without them;"—this requires but a few fashionable examples to make it appear "when unadorned, adorned the most;" and it were "a consummation devoutly to be wished," that some few of influence would lend their aid for this purpose, for the benefit of their fellow-creatures. Secondly, "the danger of catching cold;"—this is sheer cant; let every patient commence without these articles, as many from necessity are obliged to do, and they, like them, will have nothing to complain of, that should be directly or with propriety charged to the want of curtains. If a room be so situated as unavoidably to expose the woman to a draught of air, a temporary screen will fulfil every duty the curtains possibly can, without involving her in any risk. Thirdly, "to protect the woman against too much light." This reason is even more futile, than the one last noticed; for the inlets by which light is admitted can readily be shut without expense, or any very great exercise of genius. Fourthly, and lastly, "curtains in cold weather are necessary to keep the patient warm." An additional blanket will do this effectually.

Fresh air, I repeat, is of the greatest possible service to the lying-in woman; it is, in a word, indispensable to the regular return of health; and if properly indulged in, will prepare the patient without hazard for the enjoyment of it abroad in suitable weather. I have often heard the question, "how soon can a woman after confinement venture abroad with safety?" This, like many other questions, would seem to require no condition; but, like many others of the same apparent simplicity, it involves a number of considerations which are essential to be known before it can be properly and satisfactorily answered.

1stly, Because the period which may have elapsed after delivery cannot of itself be a guide; for some are better at the end of five days than others may be at as many weeks; the actual condition of the patient must therefore be always considered, and this without reference to the days that may have elapsed from the birth of her child.

2dly, Because the season of the year and state of the weather will very much influence a decision of this kind; for the weather may be such for weeks together as to render it improper for a delicate woman to leave the house; as in winter, fall, or spring; or even in summer it might for a short time be equally so from heat or rain.

A *conditional* answer must therefore always be given to this question; and I would say, as a general rule, if at the middle or end of the third week after confinement the weather be fine, and sufficiently warm to render much additional clothing unnecessary, and if the patient be without disease, though perhaps feeble, she may venture

abroad in a close carriage, with much advantage to herself and child. Robust women, when free from any febrile affection or local inflammation, may venture even earlier. And it may be well to recollect, that the sooner the patient can safely take the fresh air the better, since both she and the child will profit by its influence; for there is a vigour and a healthy play given to every function of the body by air and exercise, that cannot be procured by any other means. The best nurses are therefore those of active habits, and those who can give employment to all the muscles of the body in the open air; for it will be obvious to every one, that if the functions of the body be not healthily performed, especially those of the circulation and the various secretions, the products of their actions cannot be entirely healthy; the consequence of which is, the milk by which the child is to be sustained is not sufficiently nutritive, or fails in other highly important qualities.

To a nurse, as well as to her child, there can be nothing more prejudicial than an indulgence in too sedentary habits; the exercise therefore I have recommended, should be enjoyed whenever fit occasions may present themselves, that the milk may be more certainly and abundantly secreted, and at the same time its nutritious properties be increased; but in indulging in exercise, it is always to be understood, that any excess of it will be prejudicial. I would therefore wish to be understood to mean only that degree of it which shall not too much hurry and disturb the circulation, or occasion overheating—consequently, running, fast walking, or dancing, should be carefully avoided; especially as much injury is done the child by its receiving the milk after such violence has been offered the circulatory system.

But should accident, necessity, or inattention, place the system in the situation just mentioned, the child must be withheld from the breast for at least two hours after the occurrence; and then the milk which was present in the breasts at that time should be drawn off by some other means, being unfit for the infant. The same may be said after an indulgence in any violent passion or emotion of the mind, as the most serious consequences have followed a neglect of this precaution.

It is said by many to be a good practice, "to gradually accustom the woman to the air in the house, before she ventures abroad;" and too many adopt the plan, to the serious injury of the patient. This is done, in cold weather, by making her travel *up stairs** and down, in a strong current of air. The consequences of such exposure may be easily imagined.—*(To be continued.)*

* There is a custom no less absurd than ancient among nurses and gossips, which obliges the woman to go "*up stairs*," before she venture *down*—and this is insisted on, be the season or weather what it may. By this plan the woman may be exposed to a cold and chilling atmosphere immediately after leaving a warm room, and sometimes, perhaps, even when she is in a state of perspiration. We have known a number of instances of severe "pull backs," as they are called, produced by a compliance with this superstitious and dangerous practice. The good sense of every woman who may become the object of this improper custom should be exerted to destroy it, by not complying—and this at the risk of even offending "*a nurse*."

PRACTICAL REMARKS BY DR. KINGLAKE.

(Continued from p. 273.)

Dropsy.—A CASE of anasarcous dropsy, with suspicion of effusion in both the abdominal and thoracic cavities, has lately been treated, under my direction, by submuriate of quicksilver, in doses of two grains, morning and evening, conjoined with three grains of powdered squills. In the course of about a week ptyalism was produced, when, and not before, the urinary secretion became much increased, which had the effect of speedily inducing adiminution of the anasarcous enlargement. The cavities were also disburthened, perspiration ensued, and the general health and strength were rapidly restored.

Is not mercurial excitement much more availing as a hydragogue than the agents usually employed as diuretics; such as gamboge, jalap, nitre, elaterium, broom, dandelion, &c.? The effect produced by mercury is more general, lasting, and active, than results from any other known remedy. It seems to equalize the distribution of the circulating fluids, and that of the action of vital power, by which, unequal excitement, congestive fulness, torpor, and irregular secretions, are removed, and an opportunity is afforded for a renewal of the healthy conditions of life.

Intestinal Obstruction.—The most obstinate cases of this description, have the fairest prospect of being seasonably overcome by large doses of calomel (submuriate of quicksilver) alternated with enemal injections of warm water, either plain, or saturated with soap, in the quantity of at least three pints, or even two quarts at a time. This may be effected by the large syringe cylinder commonly in use, holding two quarts, or by either Reed's or Male's clyster apparatus.

Ten grains of calomel should be given every two hours; and in an hour after each dose, the enema mentioned, should if necessary, be forcibly injected; so that every hour would be occupied in administering either the medicine or clyster, the conjoint influence of which will be found to be almost irresistible.

In reference to calomel, there is a fact worthy of notice, which is, that if in obstructed bowels, it should not speedily remove the obstacle, by its direct action on the peristaltic power, it will soon pass into the system, which will become saturated with it, under the usual test of ptyalism; and when this effect arises, the obstruction is apt to give way. How is this result produced? Probably by the sedative influence of mercury, occasioned by the relief afforded to the part under morbid excitement, inducing an equal diffusion of vital power over the system.

Mercurial excitement, like that of all other medicinal agents, produces a specific effect, which, in the local seat of its exertion, may subdue any prevailing diseased action, and may thus give partial relief; but as the stage in which mercury exerts its most salutary efficacy is when ptyalism is excited, the striking beneficial effect at that time is most likely owing to its remedial agency having reinstated the healthy balance of vital power in all its various functional processes throughout the system.

The stimulus of distension is probably the most universal in the animal economy. Tone, energy, and contractile power, result from

distension in all the offices of animal life. The powerful distension occasioned by forcibly introducing a large volume of fluid into the intestines, whether the effect be confined to the rectum, or it be extended beyond the valve of the colon into the cavity of that bowel, is likely to augment and render effective the medicinal influence of calomel, or any other purgative medicine.

Two of the most unyielding cases of intestinal obstruction that ever occurred in the writer's practice were ultimately surmounted by calomel and clystering, as before recited; and in both instances, mercury acted more as a sialagogue than as a direct evacuant.

Burns and Scalds, have hitherto found a powerful and soothing anti-inflammant remedy in the prompt and incessant application of cold water, until the inflammatory mischief be repressed and secured from ulterior injury. Naturally assuasive and effective as this mode of treatment undeniably is, it will probably hereafter justly yield to the superior comfort and efficacy resulting from strewing wheaten flour over the vesicated or denuded surfaces of burns and scalds. This is most commodiously done through the perforations of the common flour-box, repeating it as often as the discharge may have moistened the preceding deposit. The patient experiences almost immediate ease from the exclusion of the atmospheric air, and the successive layers of flour form a coating over the sore that supersedes the necessity of any other covering.

The mechanical protection from all exciting injury afforded by the encrusted flour rapidly advances the healing process; and when the discharge ceases, the mealy envelope may be easily detached, leaving a renewed soundness of skin, admitting of being exposed, without pain or any other inconvenience.

This remedy is not less simple than universally admissible, and promises greatly to alleviate the acute suffering, and expedite the cure of the burns and scalds that frequently occur, and which, when severe, are apt to entail extreme distress, and ineffaceable unsightliness in the part where the infliction has happened.

Friction.—The salutary influence of adequate friction over the visceral cavities, along the vertebral column, on the joints, and generally over the cutaneous surface, is not sufficiently appreciated. Chronic diseases of the most unyielding obstinacy are, sooner or later, accessible to this powerful remedy. It beneficially excites and invigorates the cutaneous vessels more immediately subjected to its local operation. The partial benefit thus obtained spreads, by sympathetic extension, deeply and widely, so as to impart advantages in distant situations with which there is no direct communication.

Friction, though local in its application, ultimately becomes very general in its action. When an extensive chain of mechanical excitement has been thus produced, every link by which it is connected is imbued with improved energy, the united effect of which is exhibited in the renovated strength that ensues. However the tone of health may be restored, whatever may be the agent by which it has been effected, whether medicinal, dietetic, or mechanical, it will soon acquire an establishment from its own recruiting and sustaining continuance. The healthful state is natural, and is provided with suitable

immunities, which, if duly upheld, may be regarded as a secure fortress, but, assailed as they are, they do not prove insuperable, and are but too constantly and fatally overcome by adverse agencies.

Friction generates motion in the part directly acted on, which is propagated *de preche en preche*, until it be dissipated by extensive diffusion. If the part immediately impressed by its action should become improved in vital energy, and those to which it is transiently carried partake in the efficacy, it is easily conceivable that the ultimate benefit may become universal.

All medicinal agents produce their general as well as peculiar effect through the medium of the motive power on which they act, and their influence consists either in modifying or superseding the prevailing action. If that action be healthful, the change would be morbid; if unhealthy, it may be curative. The excitability of the animal system is uniformly affected in the healthy state, variously disturbed in that which is unhealthy.

The inherent ordinances of life are disordered in disease; in which state, therefore, neither agents nor recipients are in natural circumstances. It is the whole scope and main object of medical speculation to endeavour, by adjusting the irregular action of motive power, to reinstate the precise natural condition on which health depends; and this may be effected by either abstracting, adding, or modifying, as the occasion may require. "*Hic labor, hoc opus est;*" still it is the *unicum remedium*, and virtually comprises the entire theory and practice of medicine.

Indigestion.—In certain inveterate cases of this very besetting malady, an uninterrupted course of three grains of the blue pill, with one grain of opium, and an equal quantity of the precipitated sulphuret of antimony, taken every night, until the gums become slightly sore, will tend to reinstate at once the healthy action of the stomach, liver, pancreas, and the whole intestinal canal.

Jaundice.—This affection is most effectually subdued by giving three grains of calomel, conjoined with half a grain of opium, every six hours, until decided ptyalism be produced. The soreness of the gums, as evidence of mercurial excitement obtaining throughout the system, should be sustained, in a moderate degree, by withholding or renewing the calomel, as its remedial influence and local effect on the mouth may either advance or recede. The bowels may be regulated by a solution of one ounce of supertartrite of potash in an infusion of rhubarb, made by infusing two drachms of the bruised root of that substance in a pint of boiling water during two hours, of which four table-spoonsful may be taken occasionally.

Miasmal Exhalations.—When the febrific influence of miasmal exhalations so disorders the whole system as actually to constitute febrile affection, the noxious agency is too intimately blended with vital power to admit of effectual correction and removal without inducing a radical correction and change of the distempered action that has arisen. Common cases of an unequal distribution of the circulating fluids, as well as that of the principle of excitement, are either susceptible of spontaneous adjustment, or may be easily controlled and rectified by appropriate dietetic regulations

and medicinal aid; but when the motive condition of every fibre is more or less imbued with the peculiar virulence of the specific disease, it could only be overcome by superinducing an action that would be subversive of that which is morbid, and which, from being specific and comparatively harmless, would have but a temporary duration, and might be curative of the disease, which, left to its intrinsic quality and indefinite continuance, would be likely to prove destructive.

In those portentous and untractable cases, the treatment should be decisive and adequate. Vacillating and insufficient means may lose the opportunity that may be afforded for effective relief. After suitable alvine and sanguineous depletion, time should not be unprofitably spent in routine practice, and in timid calculations on the phantom of debility. There is no real diminution of strength that can endanger life at the commencement of any description of disease, especially in marsh fevers, that should forbid the evacuations which vitiated and obstructed secretions obviously require. Much relief in those affections is invariably afforded by ample discharges from the bowels, and when the brain is prominently involved, the abstraction of blood is also beneficial.

If convalescent amendment should not result from those efficient means in the course of eight-and-forty hours, something more searching, more counteracting, and summarily curative, is indicated, and that something, it may be justly affirmed, is mercurial excitement, carried the length of inducing ptyalism. This may be effected by exhibiting three grains of calomel with half a grain of opium every four hours, until that state shall have fully arisen.

With a view to obtaining a due measure of its salutary influence, it should be unremittedly sustained until the febrile symptoms abate of their intenseness and malignity. This happy consequence is not usually delayed beyond twenty-four hours after the salivary excitement has been produced.

When the circulating fluids and the excitement of the system have been justly balanced by the equalizing agency of mercurial action, the various secretions will resume their natural condition, and, associated with that change, will be a speedy renovation of the healthful state.

The practical value of mercurial ptyalism in low remittent fever, whether originating from miasmal or functional causes, is too well ascertained not to merit being correctly appreciated and fully tried. In hydropic, hepatic, asthmatic, and in other visceral diseases, connected with torpor of the general system, it promises, with suitable circumspection, to be pre-eminently remedial.

Remedial means.—Whether these be derived from medicinal substances, from regulated temperature, from dietetic management, from mechanical efficacy, or from mental and social influence, it is of the utmost practical importance to know what would be adequate, what excessive, and what deficient.

The motive powers of the animal economy, and the active principles operating on them, must be correctly estimated, to be aware of what may be wanting, and of what would be hurtful. Were experiments to be instituted, not to endanger life, but to ascertain the degree of

remedial power requisite to the cure of disease, much valuable practical knowledge might result from such an inquiry.

Routine practice adopts and tenaciously pursues a given course of treatment, although it may have been found for the most part to be ineffective, or, at least, of doubtful efficacy. It is clear that without suitable power, a definite effect cannot be produced; and to attempt achieving it by insufficient means is to incur inevitable disappointment.

Mercury, opium, camphor, musk, cinchona, &c. are familiar medicines, which have, through a long course of time, been restricted to the accustomed doses in which they are commonly used. Experience, however, has proved, that they may be safely and beneficially given in quadruple doses; nay, that in high doses only, are they powerfully and sufficiently efficacious. Calomel, in scruple doses, has not been found, as prejudice would anticipate, to ruffle and disorder the intestinal canal, but to act gently and salutarily. Opium, to the extent of five grains, in suitable circumstances, at once soothes and exhilarates. A drachm of camphor gratefully stimulates and tranquillizes. Musk, in an equal quantity, has a similar effect; and one ounce of cinchona, in powder, has been given at a time, and repeated at intervals of three or four hours, with tonic effects that are often desired, but seldom realized.

Bleeding in small quantities may alleviate, but will not induce the precise vascular depletion that is essential to the evacuant and anti-inflammant efficacy of the remedy. Instances are on record, in which the removal of one hundred ounces of blood proved curative, while half that quantity produced temporary relief only, and permitted the disease to advance slowly to a fatal termination.

Specific arrangements universally obtain in all the various departments of nature. These afford a line of demarcation, and serve for general distinction; but they do not exhibit the intrinsic differences which impart special properties and peculiarity of character. The human frame, in medical contemplation, cannot be designated under identical conditions in different subjects; on the contrary, a greater or less diversity obtains in every instance, which renders general considerations inapplicable to individual claims. No two constitutions exactly resemble each other in the radical structure that evolves the excitable principle of life. The variations may be so recondite, as to be inscrutable; yet they inherently exist, and are not without appropriate influence. Strongly marked differences may be referred to temperamental peculiarities, and may be respectively recognized under the several forms of sanguineous, serous, irritable, and torpid temperaments. The susceptibility for stimulant impression will essentially depend on those various radical conditions of vital power, and will be relatively shown in corresponding manifestations.

The practice of medicine in investigating and detecting the remedial powers of substances employed for the relief and cure of diseases, should be vigilantly directed to the discrepancies obtaining in the circumstances in which the medicinal agency is exerted. To anticipate confidently the effect of a remedy, because it had been formerly

produced, is to disregard the latent differences that may render such a result physically unattainable. To know, therefore, is to observe; and the science of medicine may be truly denominated a science of correct observation.

Taunton, Nov. 29th, 1828.

ST. ANTHONY'S FIRE. *(Erysipelas.)*

At a time when a difference of opinion exists among the hospital surgeons of London, respecting the practice of making incisions into the part affected, the following three cases of erysipelas from wounds, taken from the *Journal des Hôpitaux*, the first of which terminated favourably after incision, the second fatally, in consequence of its having been neglected, and the third narrowly escaped the consequences of neglect, will be found by our medical friends not destitute of interest.

Case 1.—Jean Baptist, a patient in M. Breschet's ward, fell from a three-pair of stairs window into the court-yard. His fall having been broken by some ropes extending across the yard, he escaped with a broken arm and two wounds in the scalp, by which the membrane of the skull was laid bare. The ordinary treatment of bleeding and a low diet was enforced. On the fifth day the edges of the wound were swollen, and so tender, that the slightest touch produced exquisite pain. On the sixth, the swelling was increased, attended with fever. On the seventh, the inflammation was diffused over the face and head, attended with delirium. M. Breschet made incisions through the whole extent of the wound to the bone. The delirium and erysipelas immediately ceased; and at this moment, being the tenth day from the incisions, he is in a state of recovery, and is able to give an account of the accident. In the new French Dictionary of Medicine it is stated, that it would be vain to attempt the cure of erysipelas of the hairy scalp by the exclusive use of bleeding, diluents, or emollient and resolvent applications; a *crucial incision down to the bone always destroys the painful strangulation occasioned by the swelling and tension of the fibrous membrane.* Care should be taken to place lint between the lips of the wound, to prevent their reunion, which should not be permitted until the swelling of the scalp has entirely disappeared. Patients are commonly relieved within twenty-four hours after the incision. Alarming symptoms, such as delirium, and others belonging to irritation of the brain, have been known to disappear in the same space of time. The teguments of the skull have become less sensible to the touch, and are covered with brawny scales. Again, if gangrene has taken place in the several points attacked by an extensive phlegmonous erysipelas; if the brain, stomach, or intestines be sympathetically affected, divide the inflamed skin largely, and combat the irritation wherever the gangrene has not been established.

Case 2.—A patient of Dr. Husson complained of lassitude, headache, pains in the region of the stomach, with frequent vomiting; skin was hot. Thirty leeches were applied over the region of the stomach, which affording no relief, he was bled. On the following day he had pain, heat, swelling, and tension in the spot where the vein had been opened. The pain was increased on moving the arm, which

was effected with difficulty—thirty leeches to the part, lemonade, the saline mixture, cataplasms to the abdomen—emollient clysters—low diet. On the fourth day the disease had made rapid progress into the axilla, and the arm was twice the natural size; it was hot, tense, of a violet colour, more acutely sensible. Crepitation was felt round the puncture of the vein. No hardness appeared in the course of the vessels. The axillary glands were hard, swollen, and painful; the skin was hot and dry, pulse small and rapid, vomiting increased; hiccup. Forty leeches were applied to the arm—saline mixture. In the evening he died. On cutting into the arm after death, traces of putrefaction existed in the limb, although in no other part. The subcutaneous tissue formed a thick bed of a greyish colour, filled with blackish serosity of a gangrenous odour, and which was easily lacerated. The muscles were brownish and preternaturally soft; the axillary glands in a state of suppuration; *the veins and arteries were unaltered in appearance*, so that inflammation of the veins was not the cause of the symptoms.

Case 3.—This man, who was under the care of Dr. Recamier, was attacked after bleeding. The limb was twice the natural size, skin distended without redness or sensible heat, even round the puncture of the vein, but the pain was very acute, and increased by the slightest pressure or movement of the arm. A yellow and fetid fluid, mixed with air bubbles, flowed from the wound. Fifty leeches were applied to the arm, and the usual treatment by aperient and saline medicines, and low diet, pursued for eight days. On the eighth day, two blackish eschars, about the size of five-franc pieces, appeared on the upper and inner part of the fore arm; the circumference of the eschars was not more painful than any other part of the limb. The patient was in a state of great debility, with vomiting and hiccup. Deep incisions were made in the eschars only, and the bases of the wounds thus made were daily cauterised by a strong solution of the nitrate of mercury until the 7th. The disease having nevertheless continued, its course had invaded one-half of the surface of the arm. The muscles were in a great degree destroyed, exhibiting a vast ulcer, which furnished a great quantity of fetid, black, gangrenous sanies. The patient recovered after extensive suppuration, which existed from November till April.

LYMPHATIC INFLAMMATION.

The scientific Dr. Epps, Lecturer on Chemistry, &c. has published the following interesting case of inflammation of the lymphatic vessels of the arm, in which blistering evidently proved highly beneficial:—

"On Tuesday evening, November 4, I felt a soreness in my thumb, and, on examination, found it to be swelled, and also *that it had been scratched.* Being very fatigued I retired to rest, simply sucking the thumb, not being aware, however, of its having been poisoned. On the Thursday morning the pain was considerably increased; the thumb was quite puffed up, and there existed a livid redness all over it. A dull, uneasy sensation was felt up the arm, and happening to

look at the wrist, a streak of red passing along it was perceptible. Convinced of danger, I examined my arm, and found that the reddened streak extended upwards, over the radius, entering into the cavity at the bend of the arm, whence three red stripes had extended up to the arm-pit. Knowing that no time should be lost, a blister, of a length sufficient *to extend from the arm-pit to the end of the thumb*, was sent for. It was applied the second day, and in the evening it was in full activity. I allowed it to remain on till the following morning, when I removed the part of the blister from the bend of the arm downwards and upwards, and afterwards the superior portion. Several large blisters were formed, and a considerable quantity of a yellowish serum was poured out. The blistered surface being dressed with spermaceti ointment, the arm was supported in a sling. The peculiar sensation up the arm was gone, but the thumb remained stiff and puffed. On Saturday, having examined the thumb more minutely, a pimple was seen on the part where the original scratch was situated, and a circumscribed redness and tension around the same. I cut open the skin all around, and then applied an ointment composed of equal parts of yellow basilicon and spermaceti ointment.

"On Monday, the thumb being still swelled, I applied a poultice, and continued it till Thursday morning, by which time the thumb was reduced to its natural size. No more need existing for poultices, the thumb was strapped with adhesive plaster, and the whole was speedily well.

"The hand swelled considerably after the blister was removed, but this depended upon the position of the arm.

"By this case the important utility of a blister, when the lymphatics are inflamed, is sufficiently established, and so convinced am I hereof, that should such a case happen again, the application of a blister down the *whole arm* would form a part of my plan of treatment.

"Keeping the mind cheerful is also very important in such cases: it is difficult, it is true, since the anxious countenances of friends tend to throw a gloom over the most determined cheerfulness. It may be useful to notice, that the only internal medicine taken was milk of sulphur in small doses."

The doctor should have stated by what means the "scratch" was produced. In a former Number of our work we have noticed a case of lymphatic inflammation of the arm, in which the patient, no less a man than *Dr. Anthony Todd Tompson*, was so terribly alarmed, that he became delirious from fright. The learned doctor never met with a case which so disturbed his cerebral system in the whole course of his practice.

TAPE-WORM.

The essential oil of the wormwood seeds (semina santonica) has been very successfully administered on the continent, in conjunction with calomel, in cases of tape-worm. Ten drops given with ten grains of calomel, mixed with honey, brought away a tape-worm, ten feet in length.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.

M. Cruvelhier has lately found smoking the leaves of deadly nightshade (after having previously saturated them in a strong infusion of opium, and moderately dried them like tobacco) to arrest the progress of pulmonary consumption. The patients began by smoking two pipes, and ended by five or six. In four cases in the second stage of the malady, the cough was so effectually allayed, as not to interrupt sleep. The tickling sensation about the larynx was subdued; difficulty of breathing sensibly diminished; expectoration less abundant; fever diminished, and the emaciation arrested. In four cases in the third state, perspiration and the pungent heat were diminished; the expectoration became less painful; colic and looseness appeared, but the fever was modified, and every appearance indicated the disease to have been arrested.

Inhalation of an anodyne vapour, as that of hemlock and poppies, by allaying the irritation about the larynx, and also of the membrane lining the windpipe and its ramifications, generally affords relief; but the vapour arising from smoking the leaves of the deadly nightshade is, in our opinion, much too powerful for inhaling. The vapour applied to a limb we have known to disorder the head and produce fever. In obstinate cases of asthma, on which the stramonium, from long habit, does not produce any beneficial effect, the leaves of the deadly nightshade (carefully dried) may be added to the dried stramonium, in the proportion of one part of the former to six of the latter. When the sanguiferous system is overloaded, smoking of a strong anodyne is a dangerous practice, having, in plethoric habits, produced fatal apoplexy.

CROUP.

Mr. Wakley has published the following case of croup, communicated by Mr. Emmerson, of Worsley, which terminated fatally:—

"On Thursday morning, at ten o'clock, I was called to R—'s son, who was labouring under an attack of croup; he had a cough and hoarseness some days before, which were not much noticed by the parents. I found his breathing hurried and rattling; cough shrill, but not frequent; expectoration *purulent* (?); pulse 160; skin moist; bowels open. I immediately bled him to three ounces; had six leeches applied to the breast; put him into a warm bath for a quarter of an hour; had him taken out, wiped, and wrapped in warm blankets, and gave him ten grains of ipecacuan powder in a little warm water, afterwards. This not acting immediately, I got, from the house of a lady in the neighbourhood, a mixture of antimonial and ipecacuan wine, and gave him a spoonful every ten minutes, till it produced free vomiting. *He took it all.* A clyster was administered. I now sent him a mixture of one grain of emetic tartar dissolved in an ounce of water, with directions to take a tea-spoonful every three hours. This produced a good deal of nausea, and once or twice vomiting, with profuse sweating. I saw him again in the evening, when he was much the same as in the morning. I again took away three ounces of blood, and gave him fifteen grains of powdered jalap, in a little water.

The bowels were purged the following morning twice about six o'clock, and on Friday morning about ten o'clock. He appears much worse in *every respect*. The face is pale and ghastly, his breathing is very laborious, and he is very restless. I then determined, as a *last* resource, to give him calomel, three grains every *third* hour. He took one dose, but died at half-past three o'clock in the afternoon."

Mr. Emmerson having concluded his letter to Mr. Wakley, with the question, Could any more efficacious plan of treatment have been adopted? he will excuse the liberty of an observation from us, that we should have applied a blister over the windpipe, and probably, as recommended by some eminent physicians on the continent, one to each foot. We should have dressed the blister over the windpipe with the ointment of belladonna. We should have commenced with large doses of calomel; and, instead of the *wine* of ipecacuan and tartarized antimony, should have excited vomiting after abstraction of blood, or during the bleeding (after the removal of leeches), by an aqueous solution of emetic tartar.—From the rapid fatal termination of the disease, after the active means Mr. Emmerson employed, we suspect the constitution of the child was very unhealthy.

WHITE-SWELLING.

The tincture of iodine internally, as recommended in one of our early Numbers, and the ointment of the hydriodate of potass, or of iodine, topically, are now much employed by the most eminent surgeons on the continent. M. Breschet, in his Lectures, speaks of iodine in the highest terms as a topical application for scrofulous affections. The same treatment is pursued with advantage at the hospital of St. Louis, from the records of which a recent cure of white-swelling and tumours of the jaw, may be given as a proof of its efficacy.

The patient had white-swelling, with several fistulous ulcers on the knee; the leg was bent to the thigh, and utterly useless: he had also a large tubercular tumour on the right side of the face, which seems to have its origin over the maxillary joint. The swelling was so large that the man could scarcely open his mouth. The tumours entirely disappeared under the use of iodine friction.

Within the last twelve months a very inferior iodine, made from coke, has been very generally sold by travelling druggists. The article prepared from calcined sponge by the German chemists, and by M. Pelletier of Paris, is employed on the continent. This article, made by M. Pelletier of Paris, from burnt sponge, which, three years since, was sold at 12*s.* an ounce, may now be obtained at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, at 3*s.* 6*d.* As a topical application in cases of white-swelling or any other scrofulous tumefaction, we should give a decided preference to the liniment of the *true* Barbadoes tar: and as a corrective of the constitution, we should employ the infusion of the chirayita herb with the subcarbonate of soda, in preference to iodine.

BURNS AND SCALDS.

M. Lisfranc uses the chloruret of lime and of sodium, as recommended by Dr. Hassell, with great success, in cases of burns and

scalds. The vesicles are not opened for three days, a practice condemned by some surgeons, who say that they should be opened as soon as formed. The French surgeons of eminence begin with poultices; and when the cuticle is removed, they apply lint moistened with the solutions of the chloruret of lime sufficiently strong to excite a sense of warmth.

The practice of applying salt is as old as the time of Clowes, who dissolved it in onion juice, and considered it a sovereign remedy "for burns and scalds."

A scientific surgeon informs us that he has found the following ointment, applied as soon as possible after the accident, to succeed in subduing the inflammation and pain:—

Take of Ointment of Belladonna, three drachms;
True Barbadoes Tar, five drachms.—Mix.

BLINDNESS FROM OPACITY OF THE CORNEA.

Blowing calomel on the surface of the eye is become a very fashionable remedy with the French surgeons, for opacity of the cornea, and for specks and films. In M. Breschet's ward, a remarkable instance of its efficacy was seen in complete restoration of the transparency of the upper part of the cornea, which, previously to its use, was perfectly opaque. The patient, on his being questioned, stated, that on his admission he was in a state of the most confirmed blindness, unable to distinguish light from darkness, although the transparency of the upper half of the cornea has been reproduced. The pupil is closed, and the patient is reserved for an artificial pupil. He is now susceptible of the impression of light to so great a degree, that, notwithstanding the occlusion of the pupil, he cannot remain in the court-yard, exposed to the vivid rays of the sun. Calomel thus applied, with very finely powdered cuttle-fishbone, and sometimes levigated glass, was a common practice at the Hereford Infirmary in cases of opacity of the cornea and specks or films, or thickening of the conjunctive tunic of the eye, and generally proved more or less beneficial.

ULCERS.

At the Hôtel Dieu, of Paris, two patients, with bad ulcers, under the care of M. Breschet, have been cured by the application of plates of tea-lead. If this practice, says the Editor of the Journal, has not the merit of novelty, it bids fair to stand its ground on the score of unquestionable efficacy. At the Hôtel des Invalids, where ulcers of long standing are very numerous, the treatment gives universal satisfaction, though at first supposed to be applicable only to simple ulcers. It has been equally successful in those of a sordid ill-conditioned nature, attended with fungous and bleeding excrescences. A question may arise, whether the efficacy may be due to the chemical decomposition of the surface of the lead or otherwise. This is answered in the negative by the fact, that plates of tin and silver are equally serviceable. Ambrose Paré and Guy De Chauliac, amalgamated the surface of these plates with mercury.

The application of sheet lead over the surface of an ulcer proves beneficial, not only by protecting it from the action of the atmospheric air, but by the support it affords, with a roller, to the surrounding skin. No English surgeon would have recourse to such a treatment till the ulcer exhibited healthy granulations, and the edges were in a state favourable for healing.

LOCKED JAW.

The Editors of a French journal have published the following case of locked jaw, which was cured by the endermic practice, noticed in a late Number of this work, viz. of introducing medicine into the system from a blistered surface :—

Maria Ursin, about twenty-eight years of age, of a scrofulous habit, was admitted an in-patient at the Salpêtrière, for an ulcer on the left external ancle. The pupil who dressed the wound injuring the tendon, gave rise to excessive pain, which lasted for ten minutes, accompanied with sickness and vomiting. An hour after the accident, the patient experienced a prickling sensation up the leg; loss of memory, his jaws were firmly closed, muscles of the neck in a state of considerable rigidity, abdomen considerably distended, the legs convulsively bent, without a possibility of extending them, eyes fixed, cheeks drawn backward ; pulse quick and hard.—Bleeding (thirty leeches were applied to the anus); tepid bath for an hour; mercurial frictions were employed to the neck and legs; blistering the nape, and sudorific drinks, proved ineffectual. The endermic mode of treatment was then adopted. A quarter of a grain of acetate of morphine, mixed with a little cerate, was applied on the surface of a blistered spot, at ten o'clock in the morning, the second day of the disease. The muscles of the jaw became completely relaxed ; but the rigidity of those of the neck still continuing, the quantity of acetate of morphine was doubled at eight o'clock in the evening. Three hours after, all the symptoms disappeared ; the patient passed a quiet night; and, on the following morning, he only complained of lassitude.

In cases of inflammatory excitement of the membrane of the windpipe, and spasmodic asthma, we have found this practice very beneficial. In such cases, the blister should be applied over the windpipe. We generally employ an ointment of the prussiate of mercury, or of acetate of morphine.

PSORIASIS INVETERATA.*

Mr. Wakley has published the following case of this disease, cured by the arsenical solution, from the *Journal Hebdomadaire:*—

* This disease consists in an almost universal scaliness, with a harsh, dry, and thickened condition of the skin. It commences from a few irregular though distinct patches on the extremities, after which others appear on different parts of the body, and, becoming confluent, spread over the whole surface of the body, except the face, and sometimes the palms of the hands and soles of the feet. The skin is red, deeply furrowed or wrinkled, stiff and rigid, so as sometimes to impede the motion of the joints. So quick is the production and separation of scales, that large quantities of them are found in the bed on which a person affected with this disease has slept. They fall off in the same proportion by day; and, being confined within the linen and skin, excite a perpetual troublesome itching.

Xav. Host, of a strong constitution, about thirty-nine years of age, was placed under the care of M. Brett. Having enjoyed good health to the age of eighteen, he discovered at this period, without any previous cause, a scaly eruption on his legs and thighs: the scales were very small, dry, of a whitish colour, and slightly adherent to the skin, from which they were detached by the slightest friction, leaving some elevation and redness. In this state the patient continued for several years, without any constitutional disorder: sometimes, especially in winter, the eruption disappeared entirely; but on returning, it insensibly extended over the whole body, and the scales began to change into thick crusts, which were firmly attached to the skin. During the last three years, he had been much addicted to drinking; in consequence of which the disease had become so serious, as to induce him to seek for medical aid. When admitted into the hospital, he had for the last six months been in the following state: —the whole body, with the exception of the parts exposed to the air, was covered with large irregular oval crusts, of different thicknesses; their surface was beset with white scales, which, according to their longer or shorter standing, were more or less firmly attached to the parts beneath. The skin over the joints, and of the thighs, was covered with very thick hard crusts, with large furrows filled with a bloody ichorous matter, so that the patient was almost deprived of the use of his limbs. His general health was not affected, his digestion good.—After a bleeding of ten ounces, and the use of some aperients, M. Brett prescribed the arsenical solution, of which the patient took four drops daily; and this dose was afterwards gradually increased to twelve drops. The effect on the cutaneous disease was astonishing: the crusts, which before had been remarkable for their rigidity and torpid appearance, gradually detached themselves from the skin, leaving, at first, large red blotches, which were again covered with scales; but after repeated desquamation, the integuments gradually assumed their natural colour and appearance, so that it was found unnecessary to continue the use of the medicine for more than four weeks; after which period, the vapour bath having been employed for some time, the patient was perfectly cured.

ANEURISM.—The great interest which Mr. Wardrop's mode of operating for aneurism has excited in this country, and indeed throughout the whole medical world, and the vast importance and increasing interest of the subject, have induced him to collect and arrange various cases, with explanatory remarks, in the hope that they will contribute to the improvement of the practical doctrines of this important department of medicine.

The work (dedicated, by permission, to his Majesty, to whom Mr. W. is Surgeon in Ordinary,) is divided into four parts. In the first, the scientific author has made a few valuable practical observations on the pathology of aneurism, as immediately connected with the new operation; in the second and third, he has particularly noticed the operations of Hunter, and Brasdor; and in the fourth he has given a full account of the new operation. He has also added a collection of cases which he could not conveniently introduce into the body of the work.

Mr. Wardrop is so well known to the medical world as a scientific and experienced surgeon, that his *name* more powerfully recommends his work to the attention of surgeons, than the highest encomiums a critic can pass on it. The author has added seven plates, with full explanations, to illustrate the advantages of the new operation, &c.&c.

TUMOUR IN THE FEMALE BREAST.—At a late Meeting of the London Medical Society, Mr. Lloyd related the case of a tumour in the breast of a pregnant woman, after the excision of which abortion took place, and was followed by active inflammation of the membrane termed peritonæum, the uterus, and the lungs, which terminated fatally. Mr. Lloyd concluded his narrative with the question, Would it not have been advisable to have deferred the operation till the patient had recovered from her confinement?—As the nature of the tumour did not indicate the necessity of an immediate removal, we should answer this question in the affirmative. To young, or inexperienced surgeons, this case is a very instructive one, not only in regard to indolent tumours in the breasts of a pregnant woman, but other local diseases which may require an operation, particularly in nervous subjects.

COW-POX.—Dr. Burder, in a late communication on vaccination, confirms the opinion we have introduced into one of our early Numbers, that when the characters of the cicatrix from vaccination become obliterated, the system is liable to small-pox and to cow-pox: and, in order to secure it against the infection of small-pox, the patient should be revaccinated. For this opinion, Dr. Burder says, he is indebted to a private communication from Dr. Miller, of Washington College, Baltimore.

WORMS.—Mr. Rhind, an eminent surgeon of Edinburgh, has published a very valuable *practical* treatise on the production, nature, causes, and cure of the worms which have been found in the alimentary canal, with lithographic representations of each variety. The author has adopted the scientific classification of Rudolphi and Bremser, and has given the methods of treatment of each variety which has proved most successful in this country and on the continent. It is the cheapest, and decidedly the best work on the production, treatment, &c. of the intestinal worms of the human body that has been published in this country. We shall notice the most interesting parts of this essay in our next Number.

STRICTURE.—Mr. Richard Anthony Stafford, a scientific surgeon of London, (Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and late House-Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital,) has lately published a series of observations on stricture of the urethra, with the view of acquainting the medical profession with a new method of treating the more obstinate and aggravated forms of this distressing malady. The author has introduced several cases in which his mode of treatment has succeeded, chiefly in hospitals; and has added a plate of the instruments he employs. This department of surgery being more defective than any other, Mr. Stafford's work will prove an useful guide in cases of long standing and aggravated forms of stricture; and the adoption of his mode of treatment will, no doubt, in old and obstinate cases, not only prevent much misery, but considerably prolong life.

THERAPEUTICS.

CHIRAYITA.—We have received several cases of indigestion, accompanied with an overloaded state of the liver, a deficiency of the secretion of the bile, and sluggishness of the intestines, in which the mixture of infusion of chirayita, subcarbonate of soda, and tincture of the herb, recommended in our number for November last (p. 554), proved highly beneficial after the treatment by blue pill, and the infusion of cascarilla and subcarbonate of soda, had totally failed. In all the cases it acted as a stomachic and as a visceral purgative, and kept up a regular action of the intestines; the fæces, a few days after taking the mixture, exhibited a healthy yellow appearance, and the countenances of all the patients became clear. The consequences of indigestion, as heartburn, flatulence, a sense of oppression about the region of the stomach, and general nervousness, soon disappeared; the tongue became clean, and the appetite improved.

It appears to us, from the results of the numerous trials we have made of the chirayita, the reports of the physicians who have witnessed its effects in the East Indies, and of those who are now giving it a trial in this country, that it is the remedy particularly applicable to the cases of indigestion that are most common in this country, in which the disorder of the stomach is the consequence of obstruction or inactivity of the liver, or some other viscus, or sluggishness of the intestinal canal. In the chirayita, we have that great desideratum in medicine, viz. a "*deobstruent tonic.*" Dr. Blundell has found the pills of the extract, noticed in our Number for November, a specific remedy for fluor albus; and he recommends the infusion of the herb, with the tincture of it, and the subcarbonate of potass, as a detergent of the uterus at the period of life when its monthly secretion is about to cease, in order to prevent the morbid organic changes which are apt to take place either in the neck of the uterus, or in a mammary gland after its cessation. The following is a translation of the Doctor's prescription:—

Take of Infusion of Chirayita, seven ounces;
Liquor of Subcarbonate of Potass, two drachms;
Tincture of Chirayita, one ounce.

Mix.—Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a-day.

Dr. Sully, the scientific and observant physician of Wiveliscomb, who has sent us several cases of indigestion, attended with symptoms of obstruction of the liver, sluggishness of the intestinal canal, and morbid fæces, observes, "in my own practice, it has proved a most excellent deobstruent and stomachic. It not only acts beneficially on torpid livers, but invigorates the alimentary canal, and corrects all the secretions, particularly the excrementitious, more effectually than any medicine, or combination of medicines with which I am acquainted." He states, that he has found it also to correct the system more effectually than sarsaparilla, and to restore the health after the use of mercury in a certain disease. The cases of indigestion transmitted by the Doctor, in which the preparations of chirayita have proved beneficial, after blue

pill, with stomachic medicines, had failed to afford permanent relief; and his prescriptions for their exhibition, together with directions for making the mercurialized magnesia, an article that has been long and successfully employed at the Wivelis-comb Infirmary, as a peculiar alterative, we shall give in our next Number.

From the following mixture a respectable gentleman, who has for many years suffered much from indigestion and general nervousness, informs us he has derived the most essential benefit:—

Take of Infusion of Chirayita, seven ounces;
Compound Spirit of Ammonia, two drachms;
Tincture of Musk Seeds (hibiscus abelmoschus) 1½ ounce.

Mix.—Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a-day.

The chirayita, we have no doubt, will supersede the use of the blue pill, and other mercurial preparations, in cases of visceral obstructions and scrofula. Several eminent physicians and surgeons of London, Dublin, Manchester, Hull, Bristol, &c. are now giving it a trial, whose reports of its medicinal virtues we hope to be able to give in an early Number. The Editors of the very useful and scientific monthly publication, entitled, *Medical Botany*, have announced their intention to give a drawing of the herb, with remarks on its virtues, &c. &c. in their Number for February next.

MERCURIAL OINTMENT AND BLUE PILL.—A very excellent mercurial ointment may be made in a few minutes by washing the submuriate of mercury with a sufficient quantity of lime-water to deprive it entirely of muriatic acid, and afterwards mixing the precipitate with fresh hogslard. Four ounces of calomel, after having been washed in a quart of lime-water, and well mixed with twelve ounces of lard, form a mercurial ointment as powerful as that made by the tedious directions of the College of Physicians; and the mercury being much better divided, is sooner conveyed into the system by external friction. In the mercurial ointment of the College, not one-half of the quicksilver is sufficiently divided for introduction through the cuticle by friction. The mercurial ointment made according to the above direction, in the course of half an hour, at the rate of 1*s.* 10*d.* a pound, is stronger than that sold at Apothecaries' Hall at 4*s.* 6*d.* a pound. The colour is darker, and when chemically examined, the only difference is, the mercury in it is better divided. In the same manner the blue pill may be made in a few minutes. The quantity of the submuriate of mercury should be only half the quantity of the quicksilver ordered. In the blue pill, thus made, the mercury, as in the ointment, is better divided, and much labour is saved. A pound of the blue pill may be made, according to this direction, for two shillings. The mercury is very rapidly deposited in the lime-water, and after the water is poured off, it may be mixed with the lard for the ointment, or with the conserve of roses for the blue pill, without being dried. These preparations have been found more efficacious than those of the London Pharmacopœia in the practice of several respectable surgeons. The blue pill, made in this manner, was, we believe, first recommended by the late Dr. Saunders.

ANODYNE PASTE, FOR STOPPING CARIOUS TEETH.—A cement, composed of powdered sulphate of lime made into paste with water, and a small portion of the acetate of morphine, is now used by some dentists for stopping painful carious teeth, in lieu of leaf gold or silver. After cleaning out the tooth with lint and warm water, the cavity is again washed with a weak solution of acetate of morphine, by means of a camel-hair pencil; the anodyne powder is then mixed with a little water and immediately introduced, so as to fill the cavity about half full; after which it is filled up with powdered sulphate of lime, immediately on its being formed into a thick paste with water, which rapidly becomes solid. This practice, when the cavity of the tooth will admit of the cement being retained, has proved very successful. The sulphate of lime is well-known under the name plaster of Paris

LEECHES.—A respectable general practitioner, of London, has satisfactorily ascertained, that the turpentine of the deal pill boxes, in which leeches are generally sent to patients, has such an effect as to render them incapable of puncturing the skin, or, as it is generally termed, of "taking." He therefore advises practitioners to send them in a gallipot, with water, covered with coarse linen, so as to admit the egress and ingress of air.

CROTON OIL.—One of the nurses of Guy's Hospital was desired to rub a little croton oil over the skin of the abdomen of a patient obstinately constipated. About three hours after she had freely applied it, she was affected with considerable purging, at the same time feeling a peculiar sensation through her whole frame, and a nauseous

taste in her mouth. Shortly afterwards the intestines of another nurse, who had assisted her, were similarly affected, without the other symptoms. On the patient it failed to produce any purgative effect, which was accounted for on dissection,—a complete mechanical obstruction existing.

PURE PYROLIGNEOUS ACID.—The scientific Dr. Wilkinson, of Bath, has discovered a considerable difference between the acid obtained by the destructive distillation of wood, termed pyroligneous acid, and distilled vinegar. The vegetable pickles in ordinary use made with the pyroligneous acid, in the course of nine months, become slimy and mouldy, and the acid, when they are sound, acts very powerfully on the teeth, considerably accelerating the process of caries after it has taken place, and producing the sensation termed "setting the teeth on an edge," a proof of its chemical action on the enamel. In pharmaceutical preparations, as the vinegar of squills and Mindererus's spirit, a difference from pure vinegar is also very evident, the former, in the course of a few months, like pickles, becoming slimy and mouldy and nearly free from an acid taste, and the latter nearly insipid, with a deposit indicative of some decomposition. The College of Physicians were certainly very hasty in introducing the pyroligneous acid into the last edition of their Pharmacopœia, and in directing the acetous officinal preparations to be made with it. We have reason to suspect, that this acid, taken in a concentrated state, is as powerful a poison as the oxalic acid. A medical Correspondent of Yorkshire states, that nearly all the practitioners of that county have long relinquished the use of the pyroligneous acid for medicinal purposes. We have long observed, that on carbonates, and on many metals, the pyroligneous acid acts more rapidly than the vinegar acid of the same strength.

COLCHICUM SEEDS.—Dr. Rayer attributes the good effect of the wine of the colchicum seeds in cases of gout, or in allaying gouty irritation, to its promoting the separation of uric acid from the blood, by the kidneys. He says he has uniformly observed, that when it succeeds in gouty affections, the urine is always surcharged with uric acid, and when it fails to afford relief, there is very little uncombined uric acid in the urine. He recommends this wine in the dose of a small tea-spoonful to be given with a tea-spoonful of pure magnesia, and forty drops of compound spirit of ammonia in a wine-glassful of water at bed-time, occasionally.

EXTRACT OF RHATANY ROOT.—The genuine *foreign* extract of rhatany, within the last ten years, has been very scarce in this country. At Apothecaries' Hall the extract is made from the dried root; but it does not contain its medicinal properties, and is, in fact, little better than an extract obtained from "rotten wood." The *foreign* extract being made by evaporating the expressed juice of the root by solar heat, contains, in great perfection, the peculiar aroma, and the bitter and astringent principles of the root in great perfection. At Apothecaries' Hall, the extract, more like common coal than the foreign extract, is sold at *four guineas a pound;* and the genuine foreign extract, two ounces of which contain more of the virtues of the root than a pound of their extract, is sold at twelve shillings a pound!! Although many complaints have been made to this worshipful company of the inferior quality of their extract of rhatany, and although they know, or ought to know, that an extract containing all the virtues of the root cannot be made in this country, they obstinately persist in selling the extract made by themselves. Of all the tonic remedies used in this country, the extract of rhatany is allowed to be, by Sir Henry Halford, Dr. Clarke, and other physicians of eminence, the most efficacious. If in compounding prescriptions an article which does not contain the virtues of the root be employed, it is no wonder that it should not support its reputation. A quantity of the genuine foreign extract of rhatany, of the finest quality, has been lately received from South America, at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, which is sold to medical men at 12*s.* per pound.

ACETOUS EXTRACTS.—The extracts of henbane, hemlock, colchicum, belladonna, Peruvian bark, &c. &c. made by evaporating, by steam, or *in vacuo*, the infusion of the articles in the dilute acetic acid, are become fashionable remedies on the continent, particularly in Italy, and some parts of Germany. The acetous extract of bark is by some eminent practitioners recommended as very superior to the sulphate of quinine, in cases of intermittent and remittent fever, and indigestion from debility. It is said to be very superior to the sulphate of quinine, on account of containing the astringent principle of the bark, and of allaying irritation in the stomach instead of stimulating or nauseating it. The superiority of these preparations is attributed to the extraction of the whole of their peculiar alkali and its union with the acetic acid, and their being free from insipid gums. We shall give a more particular account of these extracts

in our next number; and in order that they may have a trial, we have ordered them to be made at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.

COMPOUND DECOCTION OF SARSAPARILLA.—Messrs. Moxon & Smith, respectable chemists of Hull, have lately introduced a preparation for making this decoction, under the name of the "*concentrated* compound decoction of sarsaparilla." This preparation we find, on analysis, to contain, in a concentrated state, all the medicinal virtues of the articles which enter the composition of the compound decoction in great perfection. It is so far concentrated by steam, or *in vacuo*, (being entirely free from empyreuma,) that one table-spoonful added to a pint of pure water, readily forms a pint of the compound decoction; and in justice to the preparers, we must say, appears to be more impregnated with the virtues of the ingredients, than the decoction made in the usual way. A large tea-spoonful of this concentrated decoction, which may be taken in a wine-glass of water, is equal to a quarter of a pint of the compound decoction. One very important advantage of this decoction is, that a dose, equal to a quarter of a pint of the compound decoction of the London Pharmacopœia, may be taken in a small wine-glass of water, so as not to oppress or relax the stomach by quantity. Another advantage is, that in its concentrated state, it will keep good for many years. A three-and-sixpenny bottle of the concentrated decoction we find to make two quarts of the compound decoction.

BARBADOES TAR.—Mr. Faraday has discovered a great chemical difference between the genuine Barbadoes tar, and that which is sold at Apothecaries' Hall and by the drug merchants of London, under this name. The public have been led to suppose that the *worshipful* Company of Apothecaries vend only *genuine* drugs, and that they import all their foreign articles. Like the retail chemists and druggists, they purchase the articles of the *materia medica* from drug merchants of London, some of whom are members of the company! They certainly make most of their chemical preparations; but no retail druggist in England, acquainted with chemistry, would prefer their chemical articles to those made by Howard and Co., wholesale chemists, of Stratford. A chartered company should apply to the fountain head for every article, in order to obtain the genuine; but their stock is kept up by a committee, some of whom are drug merchants, and some as ignorant of the characters of drugs as their common porters; indeed, the most barefaced impositions have been practised on the committee; as a spurious Peruvian bark for the true, an adulterated oil of cloves for the genuine, &c. &c. We some time since heard one of the examiners declare a piece of juponic earth (terra juponica,) to be very superior opium! To no company, or medical society, or institution, is the profession or the public less indebted than to this *worshipful* body, who, like their friends, the College of Physicians, are most intent on *worshipping* the Golden Calf. The *genuine* Barbadoes tar is clearly a powerful discutient, and in many local diseases has a specific effect, particularly in leprous affections of the skin, scald head, &c. It is also a more efficacious digestive application in cases of ill-conditioned ulcers than any of the class of turpentines. The essential oil of it, Dr. Fleming and other eminent physicians say, is very superior to the cajeput oil; and an opodeldoc, made with the essential oil, is much more efficacious in cases of rheumatism, glandular tumefactions, and indolent swellings, particularly of the joints, and for chilblains, than any other topical application. An emulsion with Barbadoes tar, made with the yolk of an egg, or with honey and gum arabic and rose water, has been very successfully administered in cases of the variety of pulmonary consumption named tubercular. In our next Number we intend to give various formulæ for the internal and external use of this article. It has been ascertained by examination of the books of the Custom-House of this island, that the *true* Barbadoes tar has not been imported into this country within the last twenty-five years!!! The *true* Barbadoes tar is undergoing a trial in a variety of local diseases at several provincial hospitals. We have ordered the opodeldoc made with the essential oil of it to be kept at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly. A plaster made with the Barbadoes tar is particularly recommended for the cure of the tumours termed bunions, and for corns.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PHRENOLOGY AND CHRISTIANITY.—Messrs. Simpkin and Marshall have announced a work in the press, which embraces three Phrenological Essays from the pen of the scientific Dr. Epps, the author of the interesting dissertation on the *Internal* Evidence of Christianity deduced from Phrenology, and a Lecturer on Chemistry and Materia Medica. In the first essay (on *Veneration*,) the author undertakes to prove

that many forms of religious worship, adopted by different sects of *professing* Christians, excite false devotion by acting on this faculty (veneration) through the *feelings*, and not through the *intellectual* faculties. In the second, (on *Morality*,) the author will point out the inferior origin of the greater portion of the morality of the present day, and that the *facts* of Christianity present the only *lasting* motives to *moral* actions; and in the third, (on the best means of attaining happiness,) he will demonstrate the sources of misery, happiness, and that happiness and misery may arise from one and the same source, according to the improper or proper guidance of *all* the faculties. In the preface, the Doctor will give a sketch of phrenology, that will enable his readers more fully to comprehend the principles laid down in the body of the work. We hope to have it in our power to give an analysis of this work, which no doubt, from the high esteem in which the author is held by the leading scientific characters of the day, will contain much very interesting original matter, in our next Number. If it should be possible, by the comparative development of certain organs with that of veneration, to ascertain the religion of the lips from that of the heart, and the real motives of those who make an imposing exhibition of religion, the ranting Methodists and bigotted priests would soon be reduced to the necessity of having recourse to some other trade for a maintenance. Dr. Epps's work will prove that the science of phrenology does not favour (as generally supposed by those who have paid no attention to it,) the gloomy doctrines of materialism, or those of predestination. Mr. Leigh, of the Strand, has lately published a compendium of phrenology, by the scientific Mr. W. H. Crook, with two plates, which we recommend to those who wish to become acquainted with its rudiments.

CORPULENCY, &c.—A very amusing, and indeed a very instructive work on corpulency has lately been published by Messrs. Ebers and Co. under the title of "Comments on Corpulency, Lineaments of Leanness. Mems. on Diet and Dietetics, by Mr. William Wadd, Surgeon-Extraordinary to the King." This work is so replete with useful information, that we cannot take leave of it with so short a notice. In an early Number, probably in our next, we shall, therefore, give extracts from it that will enable our readers to form an opinion of its merits. The chapters are classed under the heads of "Comments on Corpulency," "Cure of Corpulency," "Leanness," and "Mems. on Diet and Dietetics."

HIGH CHARGES FOR DRUGS.—A certain chartered body have evinced their gratitude to their *country* for the favours they have received from its governing powers, by charging one hundred per cent. for articles ordered for the use of the navy and army, above the wholesale prices. We are sorry we have not room, in our present Number, to contrast the charges of this chartered Society with those of the chemists who now supply the navy and army with chemical articles. This trading society, in consequence of having lost the Government trade, have been under the necessity of opening a department for retailing drugs and compounding prescriptions; and so high an opinion do they entertain of the integrity of their assistants in this department, that not one is allowed to receive the money for the articles he sells:—the purchaser receives a ticket with the amount of the charge to present to the general receiver, who has, fortunately for his health and the edification of his philosophic mind, frequently time to inhale a little fresh air, and to take a view of the sky, from the front door. At this establishment, chartered for the benefit of the public, like the College of Physicians, a lotion, the contents of which did not cost a farthing, was charged to a poor woman two shillings! We must, however, do the Body the justice to state, that in this charge the bottle, which cost twopence-halfpenny, was included!!! We intend to examine every article prepared by this body, and to give the results, either in this work or a separate publication: and we will engage, from our present knowledge of them, to prove, that their boast of selling *superior* articles is as much a bait as the pretensions of Mr. John *Saint* John Long, of curing consumption.

COFFEE.—Mr. Horatio Phillips, of Charing Cross, has lately published a very interesting little work under the title of "The Coffee Drinker's Manual," with the French methods of making coffee, &c. This work is a condensed translation of a manual by Mr. H**** of the Café de Foi, at Paris, with the addition of many facts, by a Coffee-Drinker. Coffee was first introduced as an article of diet about the middle of the seventeenth century, by some monks, who were indebted for their first knowledge of its exhilarating powers to a goatherd of Arabia Felix. This man, during his attendance on his flock of goats, observed, that the goats which fed much on the coffee berries were particularly frisky, and that during night some of them did not

sleep. A monk having ascertained that the berries had these effects on goats, took some of them himself, and on the following night he experienced no disposition to sleep. He then prevailed on some of his brethren to give the berries a trial, who, after taking a few, "continued all night chanting their praises without any inclination to sleep!" The remainder of the history of the coffee is very pithy, and highly instructive and amusing. In the appendix, the author has introduced directions for "making coffee," "coffee cream," "coffee milk," "Buonaparte's coffee," "coffee liqueur," "coffee drink by a lamp," &c. &c.

DR. HARRISON AND THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.—Mr. Roberts, the attorney to the College of Physicians, (brother of the fellow of the College of the same name,) on being summoned to attend the taxation of the bill of costs delivered by Dr. Harrison's attorney, contended before the Prothonotary, that the College could not be compelled by law to pay the taxed costs, the action having been brought against Dr. Harrison, for the benefit of the public!!! and, consequently, that taxation would only be a loss of time, and add to the expenses of the defendant. The Prothonotary, after listening to the learned attorney's quotations of authorities, and to the astounding proofs he advanced of his extensive reading and peculiarly legal argumentative powers, by some wags termed sophistry, gravely proceeded to tax the bill; so that, if the learned lawyer should persist in refusing to pay the taxed costs, this learned Body will be under the necessity of admitting a Sheriff's officer as a *resident* fellow of their new College!!! The contemptible attempt to evade the payment of the law expenses to which a respectable physician had been subjected by unjust and vexatious proceedings, is as laughable as it is impudent. Can the attorney point out a member of his body more competent to exercise the healing art, or better acquainted with medicine and the classics than Dr. Harrison? No wonder the College should have a character for a spirit of litigation, when they have been led to suppose by their attorney, that in case their threats or proceedings should fail to intimidate the defendant, they would not be liable to his law expenses on being defeated. Dr. H., sooner than be harassed by law proceedings at his advanced age, would probably have preferred paying the mulct of five pounds, but this would not satisfy the College. By law they had a right to carry the proceedings into court. The Doctor could not allow judgment to go by default, or plead a tender of the mulct. He must be put to the expense of three hundred and fifty pounds to pay five pounds!!! The late Dr. Dick, being in the 76th year of his age, and exceedingly infirm, (tottering, as we truly say, on the precipice of eternity,) desired his attorney to pay the five pounds; but no, this would not satisfy these friends to the public. The Doctor, having dared to prescribe for a friend who could afford to fee a fellow of the College, must be exposed. Such cruel persecutions would disgrace the government of the most barbarous country.

The College of Physicians, under the protection of their popish charter (procured by the crafty Cardinal Wolsey), like the Pope, are incapable of doing wrong, and all their by-laws and proceedings are of course for the good of the public!!! Some graduates of the Scotch Universities continue to abuse Dr. Harrison for not having ascertained whether the College of Physicians can legally refuse to admit them members of their body. This question could not be decided on a *qui tam* action. A few important points respecting the charter were reserved for the opinion of the Judges, but Dr. Harrison's legal adviser thought proper to oppose the views of the College on every ground. He started as one defence against the action, the fact of the case being surgical, and surely to surgeons and general practitioners this was a most important one. By the verdict, the right of a surgeon or general practitioner to prescribe medicines for a patient, and to put his initials to his prescriptions, is fully established; and the fee being voluntary, every surgeon or general practitioner has a right to practise as a physician; and this right we are glad to find many experienced general practitioners throughout the country will not resign to a set of inexperienced medical doctors, raw from an university, because they possess a diploma, which every medical man knows is no proof of medical fitness to practise physic. The Court of Examiners at Apothecaries' Hall have, much to their credit, resolved not to allow a medical graduate of *any* university to practise as an apothecary in any part of England, without their licence, to obtain which they must pass the regular examination. If the medical graduates of Oxford and Cambridge were compelled to pass this ordeal, we have no hesitation in asserting, that not one in a hundred would be found competent even to practise as an apothecary; and we may venture to say, that not one half of the medical doctors of the Scotch universities would pass their

examination before the same tribunal, even after they had obtained a licence from the College of Physicians to practise medicine within their jurisdiction! The fact is, the general practitioners of the present day are better acquainted with the different branches of medicine than the medical graduates of any university. Generally speaking, their classical or preliminary education is not inferior, and their medical education being completed at the first medical school in Europe, viz. London, where they see as much practice in a month as the students in Edinburgh do in twelve, they are more entitled to the confidence of patients, on commencing practice, than the graduates of the Edinburgh university. A medical diploma is, indeed, but too frequently conferred by favour, and when the private examination is at the house of the professor to whom the candidate had been a pupil, is most friendly.

We understand Dr. Harrison has determined to publish the whole of his case, containing the opinions of all the eminent lawyers he consulted, respecting the powers of the College of Physicians, and of the legal interpretation of the ambiguous clauses in the charter, and the situation in which the Scotch graduates are placed by the Act of Union. The work will contain information of great interest, not only to the graduates of the Scotch and of all foreign universities, but to general practitioners and surgeons. The publication cannot fail to bring the crafty Cardinal's charter before the Legislative bodies, by whom it will, no doubt, be adapted to the present state of medicine "for the *real* good of the public."

So pusillanimous are the Scotch graduates, who are so lavish of their abuse on Dr. Harrison for allowing his legal adviser to shift the ground of defence, after having been beaten in almost every position, that not one of them dares to claim a right to admission under the Act of Union. They should consider Dr. Harrison is not a Scotchman, and that he did not take up a residence in London with the view of practising as a physician; and in directing his mind to the investigation of the causes, &c. &c. of irregularities in the spinal column, and of many diseases of the spine, he has been actuated by no other motive than to benefit his fellow-creatures—the worthy Doctor being independent of practice. Why then should the Doctor, at a considerable expense, and much harassing mental fatigue, fight their battle? If the Scotchmen who have settled as physicians in London, possessed as much genuine English courage as Dr. Harrison has displayed, the question, as to the extent of the powers of the College, would not have remained so long undecided.

COOPER *v.* WAKLEY.—We have no recollection of a trial in this country, except that of the late Queen Caroline, having excited so much interest as the late trial in the Court of King's Bench of Bransby Cooper *versus* Wakley, for an alleged libel. The medical men of London could not have been more alive had they expected a shower of guineas, or an importation of a contagious malady. The alleged libel, the addresses of the plaintiff and of the defendant, and the evidence of the witnesses on both sides, having been given in all the London daily papers, we have thought it unnecessary to occupy our pages with them, to the exclusion of more instructive information. Anxious, as we are, to maintain a character for impartiality, we really cannot refrain from making some *practical* remarks on those points which produced strong impressions on our mind at the time of reading the accounts of the trial, published by Mr. Wakley and by his opponents. It clearly appears, that the report of the operation was sent to Mr. Wakley, for publication in the Lancet, by Mr. Lambert, who witnessed the whole operation; and that Mr. Wakley had softened some expressions which were likely to prove offensive to Mr. Cooper. It also appears that the operation did occupy fifty-five minutes; that the first incision was very promptly and judiciously made; that there was no *gush* of urine; that the forceps was introduced on completing the supposed opening into the bladder; and, not succeeding in grasping the calculus, that two incisions were afterward made; that several pair of forceps and even a scoop were subsequently used; that so much mischief or inflammation came on in a few hours after the operation, as to render abstraction of blood (from a vein, and by leeches applied over the abdomen,) and the usual antiphlogistic

medical treatment necessary; and that the man died 29 hours after the operation. On reading this case, will any impartial surgeon, or any impartial governor of Guy's Hospital, in which it occurred, say that it is not a proper one for investigation? In our opinion it was one that should have been brought before a coroner's jury. After having read the evidence adduced by the plaintiff, will any surgeon say that a satisfactory reason has been assigned why a most painful operation (which we have seen performed by Sir Charles Blick in three minutes) should be protracted to fifty-five minutes? Mr. Lambert, in the alleged libel, candidly states, that the "*first* incision was *freely* and *fairly* made;" and Mr. Callaway, who held the staff, on his oath, stated that "the forceps did enter the bladder." Now, if the forceps did enter the bladder, and the calculus was small, (only of the size of a small Windsor bean,) what possible necessity could there have been for enlarging the opening?

Sir James Scarlett very emphatically and very feelingly stated to the jury, "that the stone was *flat, and lay on the shelf of the pubes; and that there was no protruding end for the forceps to lay hold of; and,* THEREFORE, *the form of the stone, and its position, accounted for the time the operation took up.*"(!!) "The first attempt to take hold of the stone not succeeding," proceeds the learned counsel, "he then found it necessary to *cut through the prostate gland*"! This is, with a vengeance, *law* surgery, and *law* anatomy; and had the jury been composed of surgeons, the defendant would have had no occasion to have addressed the jury. According to this defence, the prostate gland was not cut through on making the incision into the bladder; and if so, we may be allowed to ask, into what part was the forceps introduced; for assuredly, in case the prostate gland was *not* cut through, it was not possible for the forceps to enter the bladder?

The knowledge of this wig-and-gown tribe is so universal, and so profound, that they are competent to discuss *any* scientific subject in a court of *law*, and their arguments are often so profound and beautiful, as to astound both the judge and jury, and make the learned smile. When a scientific subject is brought before them, they make strange business of it; but no matter, their triumph is never greater than when they succeed in making the "worse the better cause." Mr. Callaway at one time stated, that the stone lay at the *upper part of the bladder, above the pubes;* and, at another time, that he felt it on withdrawing the instrument. Now, if he discovered it on *withdrawing* the instrument, we should have supposed that, instead of being at the top of the bladder, it was at the bottom. The bladder, containing no urine, was, of course, in a state of collapse; and, in that case, how could it be possible for the stone to be *above* the pubes? The muscular fibres of the bladder, on the sudden discharge of urine from an incision made into it, sometimes irregularly contract, so as to grasp, as it were, the calculus; but to say that the stone becomes entangled in the *folds*, is, in our opinion, not anatomical, for we never observed a fold in the bladder that contracted during life, the internal surface being as smooth as the external. Was, then, the operation protracted in consequence of the forceps not having been introduced into the bladder after the first incision; or of its having been passed into the cellular substance between the bladder and rectum?

Mr. Partridge, an experienced and scientific surgeon of Colchester, who gave his evidence like a man who dares to speak the truth, stated, on his oath, "he did not consider that the forceps entered the bladder the first time, and that the impression on his mind was, that the opening in the bladder was not sufficiently large to admit the forceps." There was evidently much

confusion about this part of the operation; and neither the operator nor his assistant has, in our opinion, accounted for it; and certainly the *necessity* of a *second* incision seems to confirm the opinion given by Mr. Partridge. If then the first opening into the bladder was not large enough to admit the forceps, where did it go? Mr. Callaway admits that it went high enough to enter the bladder; and therefore if it did not enter the bladder, it probably passed into the cellular substance between the bladder and rectum. Mr. Lambert and Mr. Pearl stated, that they, at one time, believed the forceps was between the bladder and rectum. Now, what says the *post-mortem* examination? Mr. Lambert and Mr. Pearl, who attended the examination, asserted that there was an opening between the bladder and rectum.

Dr. Hodgken, a Quaker, who was also present, said that the opening pointed out by Mr. Lambert was made after the parts had been removed from the body; and had it been done at the time of the operation, there would have been coagulated blood in it. Mr. Pearl denied that the opening was made by Mr. Lambert. As to the absence of coagula, every surgeon knows that the cellular substance may be lacerated without occasioning a discharge of blood; and even if blood had been effused, there was time enough before the patient died for it to escape, or be removed by the discharge of urine. Neither Mr. Lambert nor Mr. Pearl were examined as to the presence or absence of coagula in the opening between the bladder and rectum.

Mr. Callaway swore that had "the forceps gone between the bladder and rectum, he should have perceived it." Now, really we cannot see why he should have been able to "perceive it" more than the other attendants, for *at this time* he had nothing to do with the operation; and he admitted that his situation would not enable him to judge better than a common spectator. If he could *perceive* whether Mr. Cooper was pushing the end of the forceps about an opening between the bladder and rectum, or in a collapsed bladder, he possesses greater perceptive powers than we are willing to allow the most acute, scientific, and experienced surgeon, in this or any other country.

Sir James Scarlett emphatically told the jury, that if such an opening had been made during the operation, it would necessarily have produced death in a much shorter time than forty-eight hours!!! Every surgeon of experience will rather be surprised that it proved fatal in so short a period, than otherwise. If the opening was not made during the operation, why did the man die so soon after it?—Certainly not from loss of blood, but from the effects of the operation. Mr. John Laundy, who held all the instruments during the operation, swore that he witnessed an operation for the stone, by the late Mr. Cline, which lasted 100 minutes; but, poor fellow, he could not recollect the cause of the delay!! Mr. Dalrymple, an eminent surgeon, of Norwich, swore, that he had himself the misfortune to have a case where the *stone was so large* (!!) that it could not be removed; and in three hours the patient died: and good Mr. Travers voluntarily swore, that he had performed the operation twice, and found no stone in the bladder!!! Admirable candour!!! Mr. Partridge, and others swore, that the patient appeared to be a healthy stout man; and Mr. Key, and others, swore that he was an unhealthy man!! Sir James Scarlett boldly asserted that the case was considered so difficult, that the Lewes surgeons would not undertake the operation, and sent him to more experienced operators. The patient was sent to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, by Mr. Hodson, of Lewes, who is considered, by the surgeons that have seen him operate for the stone,

the most dextrous operator in England. If Mr. Hodson had really entertained such an opinion of the case, why was his evidence not produced, as well as that of Mr. Dalrymple? When Mr. Cooper and others examined the bladder, in Guy's Hospital, they discovered nothing unusual; and it was, in fact, pronounced a favourable case. If it had been found otherwise, the other surgeons of the Hospital would have attended the operation:—their absence, even in a simple case, is a most disgraceful neglect of duty. At Bartholomew's Hospital all the surgeons are generally present at the simplest operation; but, in this unfortunate case, there was only one of the surgeons in attendance, and that only an *assistant* surgeon!!! Mr. Hodson will, no doubt, publish his reason for having sent the patient to a London Hospital. Another striking point in this case is the circumstance of there being "no gush of urine on introducing the knife into the bladder;" if any urine escaped, it was so trifling as not to be evident to the spectators, who were a short distance from the operator.

Sir Astley Cooper, with his usual frankness, gave his opinion, that the patient must have emptied his bladder just before the operation; and he attributed, and very justly in our opinion, the difficulties or perplexities that occurred to the bladder being empty at the time. It is customary to desire a patient, with a stone in the bladder, not to empty his bladder for some hours before the operation, but in this case it is clear, neither the surgeon nor his assistant knew whether there was any urine in the bladder or not!!! This was a most censurable neglect. When the bladder is in such a state of irritation as not to admit of much distension by urine, or when the patient has emptied the bladder, it is the custom with surgeons to inject some lukewarm water a minute or two before the operation, and in the case of the unfortunate man we are surprised that Mr. Cooper had not recourse to an injection of lukewarm water, when he could not discover the calculus after enlarging the opening. If the bladder had been properly distended by urine, or by lukewarm water, we are satisfied Mr. Cooper would have experienced no difficulty. When the bladder is collapsed with so small a stone in it, really the most experienced surgeon may, with the straight knife Mr. Cooper employed, not succeed in making a *proper* opening into the bladder.

The attempt to prejudice the minds of the jury against the principal witness for the defendant, Mr. Lambert, was pitiful. The expulsion of Mr. Lambert from three hospitals was not for any improper conduct, but merely for having reported to the editor of the Lancet the cases that he considered worthy of publication; and we firmly believe, that in doing it he had not been guilty of any misrepresentation. His expulsion, therefore, was disgraceful to the surgeons of the hospital and creditable to himself, and, in our opinion, he is entitled to the thanks of the Governors of the hospitals, for having given publicity to the careless manner in which many operations had been performed, and the cruel neglect the patients often experienced. The only part of the evidence of Sir Astley Cooper to which we object, is the assertion that no surgeon would send a patient to his bed after having made an opening into the bladder without extracting the stone, after ascertaining that one existed in the bladder. In the hospitals of Paris, the surgeons, when they meet with difficulty, prefer sending the patient to bed, after making a proper opening into the bladder, sooner than employ force, or do mischief by a forcible extraction that would probably endanger life; and really we think no surgeon justifiable in risking the life of a patient to preserve his own character.

With regard to the evidence of Mr. Cooper's friends, really after the

opinions most of them gave on the memorable trial of Rolfe *versus* Stanley, for maltreatment, that it is good practice to bind up a contused wound with two pebbles in it, we cannot give it that weight, to which some may consider it entitled. The amount of damages given by the jury says nothing; and if Mr. Cooper fancies he has gained a victory, we would say from the effect of the evidence *pro* and *con*, on thinking men, another such victory would ruin him. Upwards of 200 persons having been present at this operation, it has been a matter of surprise to many that more witnesses were not produced by the plaintiff and by the defendant, who could speak to many facts. We have heard many of the pupils who were present object to give their evidence in favour of the report, because they should thereby be "flying in the face of those who in a short time would be their examiners at the College of Surgeons and the court of examiners at Apothecaries' Hall;" and this feeling was general among the pupils.

But why did not Mr. Cooper subpœna some of them? The Judge observed to the Jury, that pupils could not be competent to give an opinion whether an operation was dextrously or badly performed. Mr. Cooper, having published the testimony of many of the pupils in favour of the great skill and judgment he had exhibited in his Hospital practice, must *then* have thought otherwise; but, as the lawyers say, "there is a great difference between saying and swearing."

The pupils of Mr. Bransby Cooper have advertised their resolution to present him with a piece of plate, as a proof of their respect for his professional abilities; now, really, we think it would redound more to their credit to raise a subscription for the widow and children of the unfortunate patient. A piece of plate can only flatter the vanity of Mr. Cooper; but the collection of a few pounds for the poor widow and children of the patient would do much good, and would be a truly Christian act. Should they adopt such a resolution, we shall be happy to contribute our mite, and we have no doubt Sir Astley Cooper, Bart., Bransby Cooper, Esq., Assistant Callaway, and Friend Hodgken, would be at the head of the list.

QUACKERY.

MR. JOHN SAINT JOHN LONG, *Portrait Painter, Curer of Pulmonary Consumption, &c. &c.*—The publicity we have given to the unfortunate results of Mr. John Saint John Long's practice, in several cases of pulmonary consumption, having had the effect of restoring many of his infatuated dupes to their senses, his "guinea trade" has so far declined, that he has found it necessary to re-address the public on the infallibility of his peculiar mode of treating this generally fatal malady. We must do Mr. John Saint John the justice to say, that he has displayed more ingenuity than the celebrated quacks, Solomon and Brodum, in his baits for entrapping the flats. Like them he attributes the "*opposition (!!)* his *new* discovery has experienced to sordid or some other unworthy motives"! Mr. John Saint John Long boldly asserts, that he has challenged the whole medical profession to put his new mode of "*curing* pulmonary consumption to the test; but (says he) not one dares accept the challenge!! He boasts of his great candour and liberality towards the profession, and complains, in the most scurrilous terms, of their illiberality, not only towards Mr. John Saint John Long, but their total disregard of any discovery that is likely to militate against their interest, however beneficial it is likely to prove to the public. As to the effects of such illiberal opposition on *his* "guinea trade," he is, of course, perfectly indifferent. Mr. John Saint John Long having embarked in a good cause, has resolved to uphold the dignity of the Fellows of the College of Physicians in supporting the "guinea trade;" for however indigent his dupes may be, Mr.

John Saint John Long will not perform his curative process gratuitously. Both the rich and poor under Mr. John Saint John Long's care, will equally receive "a guinea's worth of attendance, &c." and the fee must therefore be paid as soon as the humbug ceremony is finished; indeed, to render it more efficacious, the fee should be ready in the hand for presentation. The unfortunate results of Mr. John Saint John Long's "*curative process*," has convinced him of the propriety, or rather policy, of being more cautious in giving an opinion of the probable results of his "curative process" in cases of pulmonary consumption in any stage; he, however, takes good care to give such hopes as to induce the patient to place himself under his care. With a countenance indicative of the most sincere commiseration and sympathy, Mr. John Saint John Long expresses his regret that the patient did not apply to him before the disease had made such progress in his lungs, but with a smile he desires him not to despair of perfect recovery. The symptoms, he assures him, shall not discourage *him*, but, on the contrary, they should stimulate, and would proportion his treatment to the inveteracy of the malady, by which alone he can give him a chance of recovery. If the case should therefore terminate fatally, Mr. John Saint John Long's reputation will not suffer in the opinion of his friends, Mr. John Saint John having candidly told the patient that he was "fearful the case was too far advanced;" if, on the contrary, the disease appears to be chronic inflammation of the internal membrane of the wind-pipe and bronchial ramification, (a very common disease in this country, and frequently mistaken by the inexperienced for true consumption, and which is as easily cured by simple treatment as common catarrh, and indeed often terminating in a favourable change in the atmosphere,) the case is most industriously blazoned about as one of real consumption cured by Mr. John Saint John Long! If the disease be in its first stage, when it is always more or less under the control of the healing art, Mr. John Saint John Long has found it the best policy to give an equivocal opinion. The extraordinary exertions of his friends to bring grist to the mill have induced the discerning part of the dupes to entertain the *illiberal* idea that they participate in the golden results. They do not hesitate to represent every case attended with emaciation or general debility, as one of consumption, although the patients be free from the characteristic symptoms, as cough, difficulty of breathing, expectoration, &c. &c.

The case of the Countess of Berkeley, an old toddling woman, although free from any symptom of pulmonary consumption, has been represented as one of *real* consumption, cured by the *extremely delicate* friction operation of Mr. John Saint John Long, over her bosom, &c.!!! In exposing a trade of tampering with human life for the sake of lucre, we are actuated by no other motive than a desire to discharge what we consider to be one of our most important duties. Mr. John Saint John Long, and the scribblers in his pay, may indulge in the most illiberal and rancorous abuse of us, but they will find that they will not succeed in putting us out of temper. We shall conscientiously and fearlessly state facts, perfectly indifferent to whom we may give offence. In a late number of this work we have noticed the distressing case of an accomplished young lady (daughter of Captain Bridge, of Harwich), which terminated fatally after having been some weeks under the care of Mr. John Saint John Long. When we saw her, a few days after she had been under the care of Mr. John Saint John Long, her case appeared to us far from being hopeless. Mr. John Saint John Long, in order to neutralize our report of that case, has told the inquisitive part of his dupes, that during a short absence from London, Capt. Bridge was so imprudent as to consult Dr. Shearman, and finding on his return that she had been bled, by the advice of the Doctor, he declined to attend her, observing to the Captain, that no effort he could make after the loss of such a quantity of blood, would possibly succeed!! He has also asserted, that *after the death of Miss Bridge*, the Captain wrote to him, to express his regret in having consulted Dr. Shearman!!! Now we are authorized, by a respectable gentleman, to state, that Captain Bridge did not request the attendance of Dr. Shearman in consequence of the absence of Mr. John Saint John Long from town; that his daughter did not lose blood; that Captain Bridge did not write to Mr. John Saint John Long after the death of his daughter, to express regret for having called in Dr. Shearman; but, on the contrary, he expressed to his friend his great regret in having placed any confidence in his false promises, and in having delayed a medical consultation, through his positive assurance of success, and also that Mr. John Saint John Long did not voluntarily discontinue his attendance on

Miss Bridge, but was discharged with a proper reprimand. Captain Bridge, who is a gentleman of great respectability, now living in Harwich, asserts, that among all the patients of Mr. John Saint John Long, to whom he was introduced, he did not see one that was really consumptive!!! Mr. John Saint John Long, in his public address, which the editors of some of the daily papers have so far insulted their readers as to insert as coming from themselves, has asserted that the "treatment adopted by Mr. John Saint John Long is *perfectly* simple, and incapable of doing any mischief." Now every medical man of any experience, and indeed every person of common sense, must know, that in cases of pulmonary consumption, the treatment that is not capable of arresting the progress of the disease must prove injurious, by occasioning a delay in the employment of means which might have restored the patients: for pulmonary consumption, which Mr. John Saint John Long so artfully represents to be the *opprobrium* of medicine, is not deemed incurable by the faculty till it has arrived at the ulcerative or last stage; and even in this stage, under proper management, that is, by attending to the stomach and intestines, and keeping down irritation in the lungs, regulating the circulation, &c. &c., tubercles are detached, and brought up with mucus, and the patients afterwards become perfectly healthy. Many cases of such recoveries have been published by Laennec, and others have occurred in our own practice.

The simple treatment of Mr. John Saint John Long consists in exciting irritation of the skin of the chest, and inhaling a simple vapour, which constitute part of common practice. The treatment, so far as the medical part goes, is certainly simple enough, as simple as the once celebrated Vegetable Balsam of *Doctor* Godbold (composed of honey, sugar, and vinegar, the specific curative effects of which have been attested by some old women, with imposing titles, who were ignorant of the distinguishing symptoms of consumption); but will any medical man, or man of common sense say, that the *dietetic* treatment recommended by Mr. John Saint John Long is *simple*, and incapable of doing mischief in cases of pulmonary consumption? He orders his patients to take three meals of animal food daily, *i. e.* for breakfast, dinner, and supper!! Now, in cases of organic disease in the substance of the lungs, so far advanced as to reduce the vital powers, and particularly when the disease has been rendered quiescent by a low diet, and such medical treatment as the inflammatory symptoms indicated, the patient will, for a short time, gain strength, and thereby be induced to suppose that he is really getting better; but the disease of the lungs continues to advance more rapidly, and when the standard of health is so far raised as to favour inflammatory excitement, the lungs are incapable of performing their important office, and the patient is thereby hurried to his last home! This was the case with Miss Bridge. Her medical attendants had kept her on a low diet, and had administered medicine for the purpose of reducing the inflammatory action in the lungs, in which they had succeeded. Three meals of animal food, with wine, had the effect of invigorating her muscular system, so as to enable her to ascend and descend one pair of stairs, and to amuse herself for a few minutes at the piano-forte. The Captain was so delighted by the *apparent* improvement in his daughter's health, that he readily complied with the urgent entreaty of Mr. John Saint John Long, in sending him a letter expressive of the astonishing good effects of his treatment; but, alas, the disease of the lungs having been brought into increased action, the powers of the system rapidly declined, and the Captain, seeing his error, when too late, sent for Dr. Shearman, who finding the case hopeless, recommended a consultation, to which the Captain consented. The tragical sequel we have given in a late Number of our work.

It is common for Mr. John Saint John Long's consumptive patients to observe to their friends that they are certainly getting better, being much stronger; but that the complaint of the lungs continues unabated. They gain, for a short time, muscular power from the regimen of animal food and wine; but the cough, expectoration, hectic fever, &c. &c. are rather aggravated than otherwise. "Oh," said one of his dupes, "I am a great deal better, for I can now walk without assistance across my room;" two days after which he was a corpse!! A few minutes after having boasted to a friend, of the essential benefit he had derived from the treatment of Mr. John Saint John Long, and, after having walked about the distance of three yards, he seated himself on a chair and expired!!! So much for the benefit derived from animal food and confidence in a disease full of hope. The increase of muscular power in consequence

of the adoption of a diet of animal food with wine, Mr. John Saint John Long and his *disinterested* puffers, who are always very active among his dupes in keeping up their confidence, point out as a certain proof of the good effects of his treatment, and that it would have completely succeeded had they applied to Mr. John Saint John Long in an earlier stage of the malady. Every medical man knows that the first stage of pulmonary consumption is inflammatory, and, consequently, that the dietetic treatment recommended by Mr. John Saint John Long during this period would hasten the progress of the organic mischief to an incurable stage: and yet Mr. Jerdan, the Editor of the Literary Gazette, assures his readers that his treatment is simple and incapable of doing mischief!! Surely it is cruel in the extreme to hold out such inducements to consumptive patients, residing at a distance from the metropolis, to undertake a long journey, to place themselves under the care of a man totally ignorant of the disease. It is disgraceful to the proprietors of that work not to employ some able medical man to conduct the medical department of it. Mr. John Saint John Long, in his public advertisements, with that modesty peculiar to empirics, invites the members of the profession to witness the progressive recovery of the consumptive patients under his care, as a bait to entrap the unwary. Now we will defy him to produce one instance of a real consumptive patient having been cured by him. To this challenge he has said, that on producing the person, no *medical* man would allow that he had been afflicted with *real* pulmonary consumption, because the faculty will not allow the disease to be curable, and they will not take *his* testimony. This evasion to his ignorant dupes may appear very plausible; but we should suppose that consumptive patients who could afford to pay Mr. John Saint John Long a guinea on every visit, employed a medical man previously to their application to him; and it is customary for medical men in such cases to communicate their opinion of the nature of the malady to some of the nearest relatives or friends of the patient; and such evidence would alone be satisfactory: but really we do not believe that there is a medical man in this kingdom who would not freely come forward and attest the cure of a real case of pulmonary consumption, either by a member of the profession, or by a person ignorant of medicine.

Will Mr. John Saint John Long say that he did not hold forth the pleasing prospect of recovery to Mr. Edwards, to induce him to continue under his care? We will not say that Mr. John Saint John Long's treatment hurried Mr. Edwards to the grave; but this we say, that Mr. E. would have had a better chance of recovery had he not have placed such implicit confidence in him—more of this case anon. The Rev. Mr. Hawkes has at length taken his leave of Mr. Saint John Long!! Although the affection of the lungs was in a quiescent state, and although he experienced no reduction of his malady, he certainly did a substantial one in his stock, that of a reduction of base lucre, to the tune of 120 guineas!!! Mr. Hawkes having wisely determined to visit Jamaica, Mr. John Saint John Long expressed a hope, that should he derive any benefit from the voyage, he would attribute it to his treatment!!! The Rev. Mr. Newman, of Essex, after having given Mr. John Saint John Long's treatment a fair trial, has returned to his living near Harwich, in order that his mortal remains may be interred among his flock!!! The only benefit he received was a reduction in his purse. Application having been made to Dr. Macartney, an eminent physician of Dublin, for his opinion of the treatment of pulmonary consumption, by Mr. John Saint John Long, we are authorised to state that that gentleman has no knowledge whatever, either of Mr. John Saint John Long or his mode of treating consumption, and that he never authorised Mr. John Saint John Long to refer any person to him for information respecting him or his treatment.

In our next Number we shall give a few *interesting instances* of the "*quieting* and *reducing* effects" of Mr. John Saint John Long's successful treatment of pulmonary consumption, and we hope to be able to bring forward the *honourable* men who, under the representation of being under the care of Mr. John Saint John Long, associate with the patients for the purpose of keeping up their confidence by sounding his praise. In the *interim* we hope this traffic, which, to the great disgrace of the College of Physicians, has been so long carried on with impunity, will attract the particular attention of those eminent and skilful "curers" of that peculiar malady of the mind, termed delinquency, viz. Sir Richard Birnie or Sir George Farrant.

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ON THE EXTRACTION OF THE TEETH,

By CHARLES BEW, Esq. of Brighton, late of Curzon Street,

Surgeon-Dentist in Ordinary to the Royal Family, &c.; Author of a practical Treatise on Diseases of the Teeth, &c. &c.

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTE of HEALTH.

SIR,—Having been a regular subscriber to your truly valuable work, the *Gazette of Health*, from its commencement, I am induced to send you some *contra-practical remarks* on the *extraction of teeth*, to those of Mr. S. J. Stratford, a scientific surgeon of Worcester, which form a part of your number for December last.

This gentleman prefaces his *Remarks on the Extraction of Teeth* with the observation that "the subject has been much neglected by lecturers on surgery, and even by surgeons in general practice." To this assertion I cannot assent; for, if all the thousands of lectures delivered in schools of anatomy, besides the subsequently published remarks of individual practitioners, were to go for nothing in the scale of consideration, the published *practical* remarks of the celebrated Fox, late surgeon-dentist, of Lombard-street, and many years lecturer in this particular department of surgery in the schools of anatomy of St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, Guy's, and other hospitals, would be a sufficient refutation. Again he states, "the extraction of teeth has by many surgeons been considered a *contemptible* occupation, and *unworthy* the notice of a *well-educated* practitioner." I dissent as much from this as from the former assertion, and declare my belief in the existence of a majority of these gentlemen, who hastily consign teeth to extraction, which if tritely and scientifically treated, on a *different principle*, might have still been preserved to the comfort of their owner; and where a dislike to extract exists in the *well-educated practitioner, it is not* that he considers *it* a *contemptible* occupation, and unworthy of notice, but that the result of his *education* and *practice* has convinced him that the *extraction of teeth* demands a combination of *science* and *art* in the *execution*, over which, I am sorry to say, *theory* has a very contracted control.

Most other operations in surgery can be, and often are, calculated with mechanical nicety, from the beginning to the end. For instance, a well-educated anatomical operator (say in amputation,) knows how many cuts of his knife will carry him through the skin, integuments, and muscles, down to the bone,—the treatment to be employed when he comes there; and, after its excision by the saw, the mechanical exposition of the blood-vessels by the tourniquet, shows him how many he has to take up; theory still going hand in hand with him to the end of the operation!! And the same may be said of the no less valuable, though more minute operation, the *couching for cataract*, where

theory with nicety directs the skill of the operator by the numbers of the *dotted marks on the handle* of the instrument.

But, alas! none of these rays of theory—none of these directing demonstrations of *art*, for the relief of suffering *nature*, can be brought forward in the aid of *tooth extraction;* and as men of high mental attainments, (such as our present race of surgeons are, and must be acknowledged to be,) and others, are for the most part (more or less) addicted to impatience and impetuosity, they shrink from, or decline the operation of *tooth drawing*, because so little assisted by *theory*, and a conviction that the most expert professors of the art, from the insimilitude of the *roots*, and the position of one *tooth* with *another*, are "ever and anon" at the mercy of a concatination of *causes* and *effects*, sometimes leading to a chapter of accidents of the most vexatious difficulties, and even dangerous consequences, "quam multis aliis quæ nunc prescribere longum est," and which scarce any, who could avoid, would casually care to encounter.

But while I am free to admit, that many men of eminence hold the opinion I have described, detesting teeth extraction, and declining it in favour of the regular dentist, I am far from believing it "*abandoned* to men who have not had the benefit of a regular surgical education." The misfortune is, in many instances, that men not only *deficient* in *this particular*, but alike destitute of *education* in *general*, as also the means of subsistence, fly to it, falsely imagining the facility with which a knowledge of the profession may be accomplished. By such *men*, I admit it were no matter how soon the *practice* were *abandoned*, as it is nothing but their want of education which makes them bold, as

"Fools rush on where wise men fear to tread;"

for, if by education their eyes were opened to the danger (even to the loss of life itself) which frequently arises from the uneducated and unskilful in this department of surgery, I have too high an opinion of human nature to doubt of its acting as a preventive.

I feel with Mr. Stratford, "that whatever will tend to the relief of pain, should not be below the surgeon's consideration, while the principles of the operation ought to be perfectly understood, to do it with correctness and facility;" and I do believe there is no surgeon, with such an object before him, who would hesitate to operate; and it is my further belief, "that the *principles* of the *operation*, from the early part of their apprenticeship down to the maturing by anatomical lectures and demonstrations, *are perfectly understood;* but the many opposing causes glanced at above, (and treated more at large in my two publications, *Opinions on the Causes and Effects of Diseases of the Teeth and Gums*, and *Tic Douloureux*,) are not by them *sufficiently understood* "to do it with correctness and facility." This feeling first generating dislike, ultimately deters many from a continuation of the practice, unconnected with the idea of any "disreputable feeling attached to it." Nor am I, like Mr. Stratford, convinced that these difficulties have originated from the want of due consideration "of the *nature* of the *diseased* condition of the *tooth*, and *action* of the instruments employed;" nor that "when the action of the one *is* properly applied to the nature of the *other*, *all the diffi-*

culties vanish." In proof of which, a patient presents his mouth to the inspection of the surgeon, pointing with his finger to the caried tooth from whence the pain proceeds; a slight degree of consideration from a surgeon's apprentice of six months standing, to say nothing of the surgeon himself, would, one would think, be quite sufficient to distinguish the diseased condition of the tooth, and the kind of instrument best suited to its removal, of which, although abundant in variety, the use of each particular instrument has remained for very many years nearly the same. But "when the nature of the diseased condition of the tooth *is* ascertained, and the *action* of the instrument *properly applied*, the *difficulties*, instead of *vanishing*, often augment, and that in a way, too, most distressing both to the patient and operator—particularly if the former happen to be timid and the latter impatient—such as *roots* diverging at *opposite angles in the jaw*, or so arranged that, although they may meet at their extremities in the socket, a portion of *process* runs between them, from side to side of the jaw, holding them (with the exception of a slight lateral motion) as firm in their position as a *bolt in a staple!* It may be asked, how these untoward circumstances are to be known and met with effect? I answer, by the peculiar tact, practice, judgment, and gentleness, by which an expert angler would be made acquainted with the nature and difficulty attending the fish he had hooked, by the vibration conveyed to his hand through the medium of his rod and line; and the bare idea of any surgeon contenting himself with *one instrument* for various extractions, is one of those phenomena which, though it may be reported, I hope and trust, for the sake of suffering nature, never yet was verified!

It is a pity Mr. Stratford did not "venture to speculate on the *nature* of *caries*, or the *mode* of its *production*," as in that case he would have had no occasion to have "*considered the amount* of the *disease* under *three heads*" where *one* is quite sufficient, and where, in truth, *one only* exists, quite equal to cause *distress* to the *patient*, and *destruction* to the *tooth!* although that *one caries* may, volcano like, have various craters or openings for vomiting forth the exciting matter with which disease has surcharged it.* But as he has classed them in this fashion, I must, for a while, follow his footsteps, in the hope of being able to set that *right* in his *remarks*, which reason, according to my opinion, would prove to be *wrong*, both our labours tending to the same benevolent end—the abridgement of human suffering in this particular. The three heads under which Mr. Stratford introduces the subject are—1. *Simple Caries.* 2. *Extensive Caries.* 3. *Death of the Tooth.*

1. "Simple caries." Any one must be extremely simple, indeed,

* Round these craters in miniature, wherever incipient disease is apparent, a red stain will be perceptible on the enamel, occasioned by extravasation of blood from the rupture of blood-vessels in the investing membrane of the tooth, immediately under the cortex striatus, or flinty coating which fits it for the purpose of mastication, but is insufficient to the support of any unequal contact or unnatural pressure, the aborigine cause of *bruise*, as well as *caries* in the *teeth*.

who would content himself with calling that a *simple caries*, which, if not arrested by proper treatment, would not only cause great pain to the tortured proprietor, but eventually cause the loss of his tooth! "Under this head," Mr. Stratford states, "I would consider *that* extent of disease which has exposed the *lining membrane of the tooth to the degree that no operation of the dentist, such as stopping, &c. could effectually relieve the pain, or check the progress of the caries, where, indeed, no considerable portion of the crown has become implicated!*"

The statement, though somewhat clouded, enables me sufficiently, I think, to see the author's meaning; and, I hope and trust the reader will do the same, as also my explanation.

First then for the *disease*, which has exposed the *lining membrane of the tooth!!* There are *two lining membranes* to a tooth; the one *exterior*, and the other *interior:* the exterior acting as a *lining* between the *cortex striatus*, or *enamel*, and the bony substance of the tooth; the other acting as a *lining between* the *interior* structure of the tooth, and a cavity containing a *ganglion*, or medullary substance, vascular like the membranes themselves, and with which it appears to be in connexion!!! Now which of these *two lining membranes of the tooth* does the author mean to designate as the one *exposed* by *disease?* for *one* is as liable as the *other*. And as undue contacts in the teeth, or violent and unequal pressure on their sides, is unquestionably (as I have already stated in the two publications to which I have presumed to allude) the original cause of all caries in the teeth, its consequences are as often manifested from *without* as from *within;* and *vice versâ*. Well, then, we are, by this gentleman's statement of *simple caries*, to understand that *disease* has exposed the lining membrane of the tooth, no matter from *without* or *within;* for the only difference is, that if inflammation attacks the *internal lining membrane*, the mischief manifests itself by a *caries*, and much pain from the *centre* of the crown of the tooth, and will easily admit a small probe to the bottom of the *cavity* containing the *ganglion* I have described;—if from undue contact in the clashing together of the teeth in mastication, it will be sure to show itself in those parts of the *crown most exposed* to action with the *prominences* of the other teeth; and if from *undue pressure on the sides*, the commencement of mischief is *there perceived* by a small dark spot visible on the enamel, declaring rupture of the vascular system, and extravasation of the membrane, and which, if not timely seen and checked, undermines the bony structure of the tooth, cracks the enamel, exposes the highly inflamed membrane to painful excitement, by exposure to currents of cold air continually crossing it, in passing through the mouth to the lungs; while the cavity occasioned by the cracking or breaking in of the enamel is nomenclatured *a caries!!*

If in such *degree* of *excitement*, or *pain*, (for that I suppose is the gentleman's meaning,) any one, *calling himself a dentist*, could calculate on a cure by stopping the tooth, that is, by stuffing into it gold, silver, or lead, (good God! all tender, as it might well be,) and ramming it down with an iron instrument—if, I say, under such circumstances, any one meditated by such means a *cure*, and were

really *mad*, he would merit *pity*; but if in his senses, his punishment should be to change place with his patient, and support the pain as he might!!!

In such a case, nothing could effectually relieve the pain, or stop the progress of the caries, but removing the cause of excitement—by doing away the undue *contact* or *pressure* of the other teeth upon the one affected; and this mode of treatment will effectually relieve the pain, *and stop* the *progress* of the caries, where, indeed, no considerable portion of the *crown* has become implicated. *For particulars see the books mentioned.*

2. "*Extensive caries.*" This expression Mr. Stratford "would apply to that amount of disease which has destroyed the crown, or all the bony part, leaving but a thin shell of enamel." This statement is somewhat more clouded than No. 1, as, if the amount of disease had destroyed the *crown* or *all* the *bony part*, the *leaving a thin shell of enamel* would be impossible, as it is the *bony structure* of the tooth on which the *enamel* relies for support, and in the entire absence of which it crumbles, breaks away, and totally disappears; and then what remains is no longer entitled to the appellation of a tooth, but would be more properly designated by the term of *root* or *stump*.

3. "*Death of the tooth.*" "Here" says Mr. S. "I would be understood to mean the dead stumps which have remained after the crown was broken off, or destroyed by caries; they are generally level with the gum, are of a dark colour, and cause irritation and inflammation, by their presence, to the neighbouring parts: they have long ceased to be alive, and have now lost that firm connexion which they possessed before that vitality was destroyed." This statement is more in the clouds than either of the two former. "Death of the tooth," one would naturally infer, would follow its extraction and removal from the mouth, and, indeed, we see it every day; but till its divorcement, by *art*, from the pristine situation in which *nature* has placed it, surrounded by, and partaking of the vital principle, it is hard to comprehend what is meant by "*death of the tooth*," which, to all intents and purposes, is *alive*, till expelled from the mouth!! as may be felt from the pain previous to, and oftentimes attendant on its extraction, as also the bleeding evidences of life seen in the streaming blood from the lacerated vessels of the membrane enveloping the roots, and the larger portion discharged from the place it so recently occupied!! And again, he says, "here I would be understood to mean the *dead stumps* which have remained after the crown was broken off or *destroyed by caries*"!! For the same reason that I have above stated, I affirm this to be an error, and *that the stumps are not dead*; but that, like the *teeth*, they continue their living principle *through the medium of their membranes*, till divorced from their position, and fairly out of the mouth; nay, more, that they are competent to the communication (through nervous influence) of tic doloureux, cancer, and paralization, as my cabinet and writings will at this moment furnish abundant proof of. Again, "they are generally level with the gum." This is another mistake; having frequently seen them of various forms and altitudes from the gum. "Like broken bottles on an old dead

wall," *are of a dark colour.* This is not the case; they are white, as the roots of the teeth generally are, the part only turning black which is high above the gum and exposed to the atmospheric air, when inhaled by the mouth for the purpose of pulmonary respiration; "*and cause irritation and inflammation to the neighbouring parts.*" How can they effect all this if they have long ceased to live? unless the gentleman would infer that these *dead stumps*, as he describes them, act like *issue peas;* and though inert themselves, nevertheless excite irritation and cause inflammation in the parts subjected to their influence. And again:—"and have now lost that firm connexion with the sockets which they possessed before that vitality was destroyed;" another mistake. Almost every one acquainted with the *anatomy* and *pathology* of the masticating system, as far as regards the teeth, is aware that when *disease* or *operation* has carried off the crown of a tooth, nature, as it were, considering the remaining roots as *aliens* to the stock, by contracting the sockets on their *cone-like* forms, raises them from their position; but often falling short in this intent, so excites their surrounding membranes, that the consequent pain induces the proprietor to seek relief by extraction, which is not unfrequently attended with much difficulty and torture, though sometimes with perfect ease. But though with these particulars one would presume practitioners, by observation, and perusal of publications, and lectures, were perfectly acquainted, yet it should seem from the *erring Remarks*, the subject of these observations, that the matter is *not* so thoroughly understood by some as it should be; and with Sir John Falstaff we may exclaim—

"Why Wisdom calls out in the street and no one regards her."

Mr. Stratford states, "The nature and action of the instruments should particularly enter into our consideration." Why, teeth instruments are, and have been, the consideration of the profession, from the time of the exhibition of the *pair of leaden forceps* in the temple of Athens down to the present moment, and will continue to the end of time; and much advantage has accrued to the artificers who make them, to the operators who put them in practice, and to the public, who generally profit by all exertions of science and genius.

It is true, "a variety of instruments have been formed for the extraction of teeth," and some *may be recommended*, but generally, most by the persons who *make* them!

Every craftsman will claim the privilege of selecting his tools, and preparing those best suited to his purpose, and will not unfrequently merit encomium for his invention; but if he *boasted* of it, he would merit the appellation of fool into the bargain. I never saw, in the course of my long practice, but two instruments which were "*complicated.*" The purpose of the invention of each was for the extraction of teeth by *perpendicular action*, the fulcrum being placed upon the neighbouring teeth: both obtained patents, but little publicity. Why? The levers and wheels of the one were concocted by a *French clock-maker!!* and the other by a London *cutler!!*—attractive in theory, but abortive in practice. It is impossible to extract a tooth by *entire perpendicular action.* You may, with *peculiar instruments* (such as my own, but I neither boast of them

nor show them, because their *use* and *application* are diametrically at variance with the generality of those in present practice) go pretty near it, and safely disengage the most difficult roots and teeth, and the proofs are extant with me at this moment; but perpendicular force is as likely to take off the head of a tooth as that which is applied laterally.

I am not surprised that the gentleman who has favoured the readers of the *Gazette of Health* with his remarks on the extraction of teeth, should "have found the *forceps*, the *key*, and the *punch*, the instruments most applicable to the extraction of teeth;" for he happens to have named *all* there *are*, and all there ever have been, time immemorial down to the present, and to *remark* on *their* application is an almost useless act of supererogation. "The forceps (he says) can be employed *only in the case of simple caries.*" So then, if an incisor, cupidatus, or bicuspid were to protrude in disfiguring deformity to the owner's mouth, and perhaps injury to the neighbouring teeth, it is not to be plucked away by the *forceps* except *in the case of simple caries!!!* In truth, *this simple caries* is so simple a definition, that I should consider myself simple did I dwell any longer upon it. If the blades or beaks of the forceps are not so sufficiently bowed in their bite, (in their collapsing on the sound neck of the tooth,) as to press on the enamelled sides, they are dangerous, and should be rejected.* The Remarks further state: "The use of the key is demanded when there is such *extensive caries* that there is no purchase for the forceps, or when we find them more convenient, as in extraction from the lower jaw."

In my idea, the use of the *key* is demanded in the extraction of all the molar teeth, whether in the upper or the lower jaw, be the *caries extensive or not;* for that operator would possess small feeling for the sufferings of his patient who would attempt the removal of these teeth with any other instrument, more especially with the *forceps*, unless the teeth were so loose as to be almost removable with the *finger* and *thumb;* and if the paucity of the *tooth left* is offered as an objection to the use of the *forceps*, it must equally apply to the *key;* and perhaps the *punch* cleverly applied would effect the extraction better than either!!!

As to the side on which the claw or fulcrum of the *key* is to be placed in the extraction of a tooth, it is almost impossible with safety to send forth an opinion to the public, the disposition of the teeth being so much under the influence of the *doctrine of chances!* and it was hardly worth while to relate in the Remarks, what the most juvenile apothecary's apprentice would presume—"when a better hold is on the outside, the tooth may be turned towards the inside"!!

What waste of time and paper to announce in the Remarks, "the action of this instrument (the key) is that of a *lever!!* when it has

* As to the possibility of the blades being so sharp as by pressure to cut off the crown of the tooth, I can only say I never saw any that would do so, although I have recently heard of a professor having them made sharp for the purpose of clipping off the *crowns of teeth* as a cure for tooth-ache!!! and to perfect the cure, I have afterwards removed the roots with the punch.

been acknowledged to be such, with the *effect of a pair of parrot-beaked forceps* transferred to the end of it, for more than a century past, and perhaps longer. This gentleman tells us, in his remarks on this instrument, "the *fulcrum* should be flat:" I am of a different opinion, and conceive the *fulcrum* should present an *oval* base, firmly to take its hold in the *hollow* we find between the *crown* and the *neck* of the *tooth*, or that part just even with the *gum* and *alveolar process*. On these processes the gentleman further remarks: "In every instance in which the key is used, the alveolary process must yield in some degree at particular points," by the tooth in the act of extraction being made to press on one side or other of the process, and "hence the reason that these processes are so frequently broken." I am happy to say invention has so perfected the instruments of the present day, that with due care even a *tri-rooted tooth* may be extracted, unattended by the disagreeable consequences to which the author of the Remarks has alluded. And although "the alveolary processes are sure to be absorbed as soon as the tooth is totally removed," yet is the patient oftentimes exposed through the accident to much pain and inconvenience.

The Remarks further state: "The employment of the *punch* is demanded in the extraction of old dead stumps, which, in consequence of a loss of vitality, are separated from all intimate vascular connexion with the living apparatus, and are even commenced to be removed by absorption."!!

How could any mortal man at all acquainted with this portion of *human structure*, and at all cognizant with *causes* and *effects*, fall, for one moment, into such complete misconception! The stumps, though they may be *old*, I nevertheless deny to be *dead!!* nor can the consequences of a *loss of vitality* be at all applied to them, nor are they "*separated from all intimate vascular connexion with the living apparatus.*"*!!!* If this were the fact, they would not need the action of the *punch* to remove them for the patient's relief from the *pain* they had excited; and if divested of all vascular connexion, whence comes the discharge of blood which follows on their expulsion? As to their ever being removed by *absorption*, the thing is altogether unheard of; and doubtless, while writing this portion of his Remarks, it *must have escaped* the gentleman's recollection, that no *absorption* of roots takes place after the change of dentition between the *primary* and *permanent teeth*—a merciful interposition of Providence in abridging the pain and difficulty of this change in children, by thus causing the hard enamelled heads of the *rising permanent teeth*, through *pressure, to absorb the roots* of the pristine teeth, in order that their falling off, or easy extraction, might facilitate the good arrangement of the second set. The remarks on this instrument (the punch) go on to state: "The manner of applying this instrument is, to introduce it between the stump and the alveolary process, and to poise the latter from its socket." Why *this is the only way* the instrument *can be applied*, and is as well known to all the members of the profession as to the gentleman who has thought it necessary to make the remark! "The best plan is first to lance the gum." This *plan* there can be no occasion for, as it only adds to the

pain of the patient, without at all assisting the expulsion of the stump; slight pressure on the surrounding gum will occasion it sufficiently to descend for the proper adjustment of the instrument, when, if the operation be adroitly managed, the stump is suddenly ejected unprefaced by the lancet!

Mr. Editor, "These are the principles which have guided *me* in the extraction of the teeth," through a long career of professional attention; how far differing from the Remarks published in the *Gazette of Health* for December, I leave you and the public to decide. As an honest labourer in the avocation of surgeon-dentist, sanctioned by the Royal Family, and some of the noblest connexions of the country for my protectors, I could not conscientiously peruse and pass by unnoticed, *Remarks on the Extraction of Teeth*, which I conceived to be founded in error, and calculated to mislead.

The motives of this gentleman, doubtless, had their origin in good intent; but being raised on false hypothesis, I could not but consider them as unsolid superstructures, unsupported in theory, and dangerous in practice. Heartily trusting he will take these my *counter-remarks* on teeth extracting in good part, considering the intentions of *both* to have no other aim than professional ability, and the benefit of society, I am, with every sentiment of esteem and respect,

Yours, truly, C. Brew.

Brighton, December 12, 1828.

PALSY, EPILEPSY, &c.

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTE of HEALTH.

Sir,—Ever since my attention has been particularly drawn to the consideration of spinal deformity, and the complaints dependant upon it, I have been more and more convinced of the frequency of both, and of their injurious effects upon the health.

So great is their prevalence in this country at least, that I really believe not one female in twenty above the condition of laborious servitude, remains wholly free from them. In proof of their tendency to undermine the constitution, it will be sufficient to add, 1st. that where much deformity exists, the sufferer is disqualified from properly following any active employment. He is soon tired with labour, and obliged to desist from further exertion. 2dly. The great vessels fastened internally to the spine are unable freely to carry on the circulation, through their contorted tubes. Hence the vital fluid, preternaturally accumulated, encourages the formation of aneurisms in the arteries, and varices in the veins. 3dly. The internal organs always suffer more or less in their functions, when the spine is distorted. The viscera, being obliged to follow the irregular movements of the spine, are forced out of their natural situations, and within the chest especially, are unduly squeezed, and compressed against the bony covering. These several causes lay the foundation of numerous disorders, which operating at all times, generally destroy their victims prematurely.

Various and distressing as these maladies really are, they constitute only part of the heavy afflictions which the miserable sufferers are doomed to endure. From irregularities in the vertebral pillar, the chord and nerves issuing out of it, becoming unduly stretched, and pressed against the bony tubes, are rendered unfit, properly, to convey the nervous power to its ultimate destination. Many obstinate disorders owe their formation to the partial, or entire interruption of the accustomed nervous supply. Their origin from this cause, and the remedies indicated, have, I conceive, been too generally mistaken both by pathologists and practising physicians. They have been accustomed to trace its source to the brain, as the fountain, whereas, in fact, it more commonly proceeds from the spine alone. So long as no efforts were made to relieve the defective arrangement of the vertebræ, the offices of the spinal nerves could not be at all understood, and were therefore usually overlooked. Now that we have acquired the power of restoring the misshapen column to its primitive figure, these maladies

are not only brought under review, but are subjected to a strict surveillance. No longer concealed from observation, they have, as already observed, been found in many instances to commence in the vertebral structure, and to abate as its derangement receded. The power which I have successfully exercised over the spinal column, for more than ten years, and which I challenge the most incredulous and prejudiced to contradict, has established a new era in medicine—an era, which will soon lead to the most unexpected and useful results in practice. The authority of great names, and the influence of high medical stations, may for a time succeed in retarding, but cannot wholly arrest its progress. It will ultimately surmount every obstacle, and triumph in defiance of all opposition. *Magna est veritas, et prevalebit.* Nay, I venture further to assert, that this power over the spinal joints has already enabled me to cure several disorders deemed irremediable, and to cast a ray of light upon the most abstruse and difficult pathological questions.

Equally misinformed are those medical practitioners, whatever may be their authority or merit in other respects, who declare that recumbency, as now conducted in spinal complaints, tends to encourage bad health. These assertions are in direct opposition to multiplied experience; so great is our predilection for received tenets, and our obstinate attachment to current admissions, however erroneous, that several of the most violent declaimers against my practice have actually attended patients to no good purpose, and for six or eight years, who remained constantly lying, and yet continued in good health during the whole time. The first and eighth cases in my Treatise, besides that of Miss Goulding, published in the Gazette of Health,* may be referred to, as confirmatory of this statement. So far, then, is recumbency from hurting the health, as mere theorists affect to believe, that, in these particular cases, it really conduces to its improvement, and frequently enables patients to subdue a phthisical habit, and other constitutional ailments.

According to the order laid down for publishing my "Observations on Spinal Complaints," several cases which I am anxious early to make known would probably be deferred for several years. With a view to obviate this delay, I am desirous to print a select portion of them, without further loss of time, that they may come under the immediate notice of my professional brethren. The accompanying case will be succeeded, at short intervals, by others, if it be deemed proper for insertion in your valuable periodical.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

EDWARD HARRISON.

Holles Street, Jan. 20, 1829.

A Case of Paraplegia, or Palsy of the Lower Limbs, complicated with Epilepsy, cured by Applications to the Spinal Column.

Sarah Tribet, in the twenty-second year of her age, of the sanguine temperament, and in good bodily health, had the misfortune to lose the feeling and motion of her lower extremities, upwards of three and a half years since. Sensibility of the limbs returned partially in six weeks, but they recovered none of their activity, and the feeling was again lost, after a short time. She says that her back and left side, a little below the false ribs, have been very tender, and incapable of motion for nearly the same period.

Pulse, bowels, and appetite, are tolerably regular. The menses observe their natural periods, and flow in moderate quantities, but are very dark coloured, and highly offensive.

She traces her sufferings to having exerted all her force, to raise from the ground a large bucket filled with water. She instantly felt as if something had given way in the small of her back, and fainted a few minutes afterwards. From that period, her strength, the activity of her legs and feet, began sensibly to fail. In six weeks, she had a second fainting fit, which left her in her present helpless condition, both as to the sensibility and power of moving her inferior extremities.

She was admitted into a large provincial hospital, three months after her accident, and remained there altogether two years. While in the hospital, she was frequently bled with leeches and scarificators. She had also several blisters applied, and large caustic issues inserted in different parts of the back. The tartarised antimonial ointment was rubbed upon her loins, and electricity used to the paraplegic limbs.

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* See the Gazette of Health.

Finding no relief from the means pursued, she returned home in a more deplorable state than she left it. The assistance of medical men in her own neighbourhood being equally unavailing, she was at length brought to London, and placed under my care. She was seized with epileptic fits, for the first time in her life, during her residence in the hospital, and they continued to afflict her some time after her return home. These fits generally left her insensible for a day or two. After one attack, she remained in this deplorable condition upwards of a whole week. On recovering her faculties, she found herself in a copious salivation. In answer to her inquiries on this point, the medical gentlemen replied, that she was wholly indebted to the salivation for her life. As the fits always produced a temporary loss of understanding and memory, she cannot venture to say how many of them she has had in all, but she is certain they exceed ten.

On examining the course of the spinal column carefully, I found it every where extremely tender, and painful to the touch. It was more particularly sensitive in the small of the back, where she first received the strain. On looking at the back, I could perceive no deformity. The only imperfection that I saw in it was, that the lumbar hollow had almost disappeared. On drawing my fingers along the spine in that part, I found the vertebræ placed in regard to each other a little zigzag, or checkerwise, and at unequal distances. The pains were most severe in the lower part of the spinal region. She has no power to move any part of her back, and the inferior extremities are entirely helpless. She can stir neither of them, nor any of their joints. Though she felt nothing in the part touched, I was surprised to find, that, on pressing the soles of her feet with my hand, she was immediately seized with the most tormenting anguish in her loins, which obliged her to cry out, and desire me to desist. She was this afternoon placed flat upon a firm crib, and after being well rubbed with an emollient ointment, the usual shield* was fixed to her back, so constructed as to make firm pressure upon the dorsal and lumbar vertebræ. It was kept in its proper situation by means of a tight bandage applied all over her back and chest. Nov. 5, 1823.—The means recommended have been carefully pursued. The back is considerably easier, and less sensible to the touch. She can already move the toes of both feet. Nov. 15.—The only pain of which the patient now complains, is confined to the small of her back. Moderate pressure on the soles of her feet is no longer perceived in the loins, but she can feel it in the part touched. With considerable difficulty, she is able to draw, in a slight degree, her legs upwards, and also to bend her knees. The lumbar hollow is entirely regained, and the vertebræ have recovered their proper places. Nov. 30.—She has suffered no uneasiness in her back since the last report. She can raise herself from the crib, and move every part of the spine, with great ease. She can also cross her legs backwards and forwards several times in quick succession, without much effort. She thinks her back and limbs have acquired strength enough to bear her weight upon them. Their natural feeling is wholly restored. The menses return at the usual periods. They are of a brighter colour, and no longer emit a disagreeable smell. Dec. 15.—She moves her legs and back with the greatest freedom. The recumbent posture has been strictly observed from the first. She thinks herself strong enough to walk alone, if she might be permitted to make the experiment. Dec. 31st.—The patient was suffered this afternoon to get up at her own urgent request, and try how far she had the use of her limbs. The moment she left the couch, she was able to stand erect, and alone. Soon afterwards, she walked about in the room, supported between two persons, for about five minutes. Finding herself fatigued by this exertion, she desired to be replaced upon the crib. The moment she was put upon it, she declared that she had not felt the smallest pain or inconvenience either in her back or limbs. The menses continue regular, and preserve their natural appearance. She is perfectly well in health. Feb. 29th, 1824.—She has been suffered to walk about in her room a quarter of an hour every other day, since the last report. The exercise she finds very pleasant, and it occasions no fatigue. She often petitions to have the period enlarged. March 17th.—The improvement in her limbs has been regular and progressive. She has lately been suffered to walk two miles every second day. Feeling no pain or weakness from the exertion, she solicits permission to increase the distance. I have been induced to comply with her application to leave London for Sidmouth, under particular restrictions. May 10.—In a letter received from Sarah Tribet, dated Sidmouth, Dec. 30th, 1824, she says, "I continue your

* See Dr. Harrison's Essay on Spinal Diseases, Case IV.

advice, as far as in my power, and I still feel myself mending. Sir, when I returned to Sidmouth, the ladies and gentlemen, and even the Clergyman, stared at seeing me walk, and well they might, after witnessing the helpless state in which I left them."

In a second letter, dated Sidmouth, Oct. 9th, 1825, she observes, "I am sorry to say I have been very ill. I kept my bed three weeks, and I was very much afraid I should be crippled, but, with the blessing of God, I am able to walk again, without any support."

I received a third letter from Sarah Tribet, in Oct. 1826. She enjoyed good health, and had undertaken the management of a school for young children.

In her last letter, dated April 23d, 1827, she observes, "You cannot imagine how well I am able to walk, and even to run, without feeling the least effect in my back. I never felt better in my life."

The palsy of the lower extremities with this patient followed so closely upon her accident, that I think, whatever difficulties we may find in explaining the loss of sensibility and motion in the lower limbs, we shall have no hesitation in referring it immediately to an affection of the back. We are more favourable to this conclusion, because she never experienced any disorder of the head through the whole course of her indisposition, except after her epileptic fits. Moreover, the curative means, which proved efficacious, were wholly directed to the spine. Although this organ, when first examined, manifested very little irregularity to the sight, the lumbar cavity was nearly obliterated. The vertebræ too were found, on close examination, to have lost their relative distances, as well as their proper stations in the column. I am of opinion, that this defective arrangement in the implicated vertebræ was produced by the rupture, or undue stretching of some of the articular ligaments at the time when she exerted herself to raise the bucket. The displaced, or subluxated vertebræ, by occasioning pressure upon the spinal chord in the theca, and irritating the nervous trunks, in their passage through the foramina vertebrarum, effected both the loss of feeling, and of motion, in the limbs.

The suffering spot, whenever the back becomes afflicted with pain, has not, according to my own observations, in a single instance, been traceable to the theca. Great external tenderness is felt on pressure near the spine, and especially among the contiguous muscles. The uneasiness is therefore superficial, and confined to the soft parts. The symptoms and sufferings may in such cases be easily discovered, and their true nature ascertained, as far as they become objects of the touch. When the malady is stationed within the bony tube, things are widely different. It must then be very difficult to detect the deep-seated mischief. The symptoms denoting it are necessarily obscure and indistinct, on account of their remote situation, and the interposition of a bony case.

In confirmation of the preceding remarks, we may observe, that the spinal nerves, in their way out of the back-bone to their ultimate determination, have to traverse the vertebral holes. These are formed of notches in the upper and lower edges of the lateral bridges. They are constructed to make a round hole between the adjacent vertebræ. The nerves proceeding from the spinal marrow and the blood-vessels pass through these holes. When the arrangement is perfect, the two portions of the notch fit exactly. In this happy state of things, the nervous bundles connected with them, in gliding along the holes,

encounter no impediment. The muscles and organs to which they run, receiving their full supply of nervous influence, perform their offices easily and well. But whenever the spinal column becomes distorted and misshapen, the corresponding notches, losing their proper adjustment, cease to fit correctly. This change in the conformation of the vertebral pillar leads to numberless evils in the animal economy. The nerves, in their progress through these irregular apertures, become impeded, interrupted, and squeezed against the bony sides of the canal: hence the nervous power has to surmount many difficulties in its journey. From the contorted figure of the column, the spinal chord is forced into an unfavourable posture in the theca. The anterior and posterior nervous fasciculi are driven from their usual course, and cannot therefore emerge in a proper direction. As they proceed, and incline towards each other, to be enveloped in the same sheath, they enter the vertebral holes at an unfavourable angle. In consequence of this defective arrangement, the nervous influence is either wholly or partially arrested in its course by the impediments it has to surmount. The organs, dependent upon its regular supply, being imperfectly provided, exhibit the different phenomena which have been described in this and my other cases. In accordance with these observations, we may remark, that when a nerve is wounded, or bruised, the muscle on which it is expended is thrown into spasmodic contractions. After its entire section, the muscle becomes insensible to the strongest stimuli.

It is, moreover, experimentally true, that whether we irritate the muscle itself, or the nerve leading to it, the muscle will equally contract.* It follows, therefore, that the excitation of either end of a nerve will influence the muscle which it animates.

By applying this doctrine to the nervous bundles, in their passage along the displaced vertebral notches, we shall be able to understand how slight pressure upon them induces pains and cramps, while a greater degree of it produces insensibility, and entire loss of motion.

I am the more inclined to favour these opinions, because we scarcely ever meet with a patient, suffering from a distorted spine, who has not some paraplegic symptoms. It follows, from these premises, that both feeling and motion in these instances are functions dependant upon the spinal nerves.

The patient endured several severe paroxysms of epilepsy, while she was afflicted with paraplegia. The sources of this distressing and obstinate complaint are often so much concealed, that it is impossible to discover them. We know enough to say, that the exciting cause is sometimes placed within the skull, and at other times remote from the brain. For example, the presence of intestinal worms, and of sordes in the bowels, are common causes of epilepsy. These act primarily upon the nervous filaments of the intestines; and the irritation being conveyed, by some unknown communication, through the spinal chord to other nerves, the voluntary muscles are forced into violent and irregular contractions. For the same reason, I venture to

* Dr. Monro's Observations on the Nervous System.

assert, that irritations applied in the first instance to the spinal chord, or nervous trunks near it, will occasionally lead to the same train of symptoms, as if they had been directed to the minute nervous fibrils.

I have already recorded an example of hysteria* originating in the spinal column; and I shall, hereafter, introduce an instance of chorea sancti viti, commencing in the same organ. These, as well as epilepsy, being accompanied with spasmodic contractions of the voluntary muscles, make it highly probable that, in all similar cases, an impression upon the spinal chord may be the originating cause.

This patient had complained of pain and tenderness in the spinal column, from the commencement of her malady; but its greatest severity was about the loins. Many practitioners do not hesitate to refer symptoms of this kind, in every instance, to inflammation of the spinal chord, or its investing membranes. That they sometimes indicate an inflammatory diathesis, or, as it has been called, a subacute inflammation, I am ready to admit; though I am enabled to say, from multiplied experience, that it is a rare occurrence. We ought, however, to recollect, that whenever the disorder is inflammatory, or accompanied with increased vascular action, the complaint will either be speedily subdued, or it will terminate in effusion, suppuration, or gangrene. Inflammatory complaints are never stationary. They are always progressive, and run their course in a few days or weeks. The aches and pains, which, as in this case, continue unabated for months and years, without leading to structural changes, are neither of an inflammatory character, nor are they seated in the vascular system. They proceed from some malady in the nervous composition, belonging to the suffering part, and are chiefly to be relieved by applications directed to it. In order to act with effect, we must endeavour to find out the nature and exact seat of the complaint, before we proceed to the treatment. This discrimination is especially necessary, because the remedies best adapted to moderate inflammatory action, exert little power over a distracted state of the nerves. So many examples of chronic pains arising from neuralgia have lately come under my own cognizance, and been cured by the treatment so often explained, as to lead to a conviction, that they are much more common than is generally admitted.

In cases originating from nervous irritation, undeviating rest and perfect quiet, so long as they are submitted to, will mitigate the symptoms. But the miserable sufferers no sooner return to their usual occupations, than the old pains re-appear with their former severity. In this way invalids drag on a miserable existence for the rest of life; because, until the offending cause is discovered and subdued, the disorder will remain unabated.

As I employed no remedies with this patient to overcome increased vascular action, it is clear from the result, that she did not suffer from that cause. She became free from pain, after assuming dorsal recumbency, which is a convincing proof that her afflictions were not in the circulating system, that they were of a different complexion, and required other measures for their removal.

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* See the case of Mary Rufter in my "Essay," &c.

She had been ineffectually subjected to long and repeated courses of the usual treatment, both in hospital and private practice. That they afforded her no relief, is evident from her own statement, and the helpless condition in which she applied to me. The means on which I relied were entirely confined to the spinal region. As the vertebræ approached their native beds, the spinal chord and nerves issuing out of them gradually recovered their healthy tone and ability. The nervous influence being at length freed from all irritations, and being moreover regularly distributed to the muscles, they entirely recovered their lost tone and former activity. The patient, thus invigorated, was happily restored to the full use of her limbs, and the enjoyment of a sound constitution.

It follows as a consequence of the indications and practice successfully employed for the cure of Sarah Tribet, that her disease was wholly confined to the spinal chord and its nervous trunks at their origin. It was in accordance with this pathology that I determined to restore the natural figure of the back, in order to relieve the spinal nerves from injurious pressure. In this I completely succeeded, and as a consequence of it, I had the gratification to witness a full confirmation of my doctrines in the recovery of my patient to the blessing of vigorous health.

The conclusions deducible from the preceding and former cases are,

1st. That paraplegia is a disorder of the spinal chord. Many examples of this distressing complaint have come under my care at different times. Several of them have been permanently cured by removing vertebral deformity. This success enables me to assert, that paraplegia was, in every instance which has occurred to me, an affection of the back-bone.

2dly, The epilepsy likewise originated from the back. We are warranted in this opinion, because it appeared, for the first time after the injury, and went away on her adopting quietness and rest.

3dly, The extreme tenderness in this case was not of an inflammatory character. Had it either originated in a phlogistic state of the parts, or been accompanied with inflammatory action in them, the disease would not have remained stationary for so long a time. By referring it to neuralgia, or irritation of the spinal chord, and its nervous trunks, we can both understand its long continuance, without producing structural change, and its final disappearance, on rectifying the vertebræ.

VACCINATION AT ST. PANCRAS.—THE GIBRALTAR FEVER.

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTE of HEALTH.

SIR,—It was with no small surprise that I received the following account of the novel, and in my non-professional estimation, extremely objectionable mode of operation for the insertion of the vaccine matter, now usually employed at the Small-Pox Hospital, at St. Pancras. I should have submitted this to your, and your professional correspondents' opinion several months since, but from memorial absence and the common and usual interruptions.

About the above period one of my daughters, anxious that her infant should be vaccinated in the most certain and efficacious mode, rejecting the assistance of her family surgeon, resolved on sending it to the Hospital. On the return of the child, always previously in a remarkably fine state of health and quietness of temper, she was much chagrined and alarmed to find it in a very different state; and no less surprised at the nurse's report of the mode in which it had been treated, and of the conduct of the parties employed in this business at the Hospital. With respect to this latter part of the subject, she was informed that the number of young men assembled were far more solicitous to joke with the young mothers or nursemaids, than to attend to the welfare of the infants to be vaccinated; and, in fine, that the *present* to be made for the performance of this *gratuitous* operation, clearly appeared an object of considerable solicitude. This, in the present case, would have been entirely overlooked; but, considering the consequence, few mothers, I apprehend, would overlook the extraordinary mode of the operation. *Eleven* incisions were made with a large common penknife in the arm of this delicate child, not three months old; the quantity of blood effused alarmed the mother exceedingly, but the inflammation and tension which supervened, the arm swelling to the size of two, with diarrhœa, a high degree of fever, and symptoms of great distress in the eyes and countenance of the infant, gave rise to very serious apprehensions. The surgeon being called in, expressed great surprise at the singular method which had been taken, and at one time seemed to think there was considerable risk of life, from the excessive irritation which had been produced. However, thanks to the fine and healthy constitution of the child, these symptoms gradually abated, she became convalescent, and has since enjoyed full health, with no doubt the full benefit of vaccination. The corollary to be drawn from this case, however, is, that either a very gross or very weakly subject would, in all probability, have been lost under the circumstances.

The motive assigned at the Hospital for this practice is, to make assurance doubly sure, on the apprehension that, should one incision fail, mothers would not take the trouble to return. But the vaccine matter being good, one puncture has been generally held, indeed proved, sufficient. It is most impolitic to throw any obstacle in the way of this great national blessing. It is an old and safe rule, of two evils to choose the least; and, beyond a doubt, in this case, the least is to run the risk of a single puncture, and take the chance of a second visit in case of failure; for assuredly the terror of the butcherly mode above described, and the report of ill consequences from it, is far the most probable to deter mothers, and to disaffect them towards vaccination. Men who have lived long in the world become gradually cured of the itch of *wondering*. My cure has been long since completed; but, were I half a century younger, my admiration would no doubt arise in an exalted degree, to witness the strange affection yet subsisting in many going at large, and not inmates of any lunatic asylum, for that horrible pest and disfigurer of the human face divine, *variola*, frightful, heart-sickening SMALL-POX! Even so lately as during the present year, this loathsome curse of human nature has

spread to an alarming degree in various parts of the country; and the patients have actually been permitted to reside, during the course of the disease, in the towns and villages, spreading the infection far and wide. Our police is here most scandalously defective, in not compelling the instant removal of those on the first appearance of the disease: and however averse I am to all arbitrary restraints on human conduct, and however exalted, even to *ultraism*, my notions of human liberty, I cannot refuse my assent to the rationality and political justice exhibited by those continental nations who compel vaccination by a law of the state. Such a law insures an unspeakable and incontrovertible public good, unalloyed by the drawback of the slightest private injury.

Much against my inclination and usual custom, I have not been able to look over your excellent and nationally useful pages during two or three months, so that I am uncertain whether or not you have yet taken up the important subject of the Gibraltar fever, the nature and origin of which seem a complete *opprobrium* to all, whether medical, or experienced from residence on the Rock. I have some friends there; one, formerly resident during a number of years, and, once or twice, whilst the fever prevailed. His opinion is, that the late attack has been the most severe and fatal, though happily now nearly extinct. It is non-recurrent, no one has it twice. The leading symptoms, congenial with the English ague, are, pains in the loins and head, with gradual prostration of strength, and a yellow tinge upon the skin, which has induced some medical men to style it the yellow fever, however essentially different from the yellow fever of other countries. In the early stage of one case, the patient a young man, calomel succeeded. The disease is strictly confined to the limits of the Rock, the neutral ground adjoining the Rock being perfectly free, as are the shipping. It is unknown on the opposite coast of Barbary and in Spain. I am, Sir, &c. &c.

PROPE OCTOGENARIUS.

WEN AND SCROFULA.

The Editors of a French Journal (*la Clinique*) have published a case of unusually large wen, in which the tincture of iodine, administered in the dose of ten drops twice a-day, succeeded in effecting a cure. The patient (Benjamin Chavie, a native of Savoy) was eighteen years of age. When he was received into the hospital of Paris (Hôtel Dieu), the tumour occupied the whole space between the middle of the neck and the collar-bones, and its mechanical effects on the windpipe occasioned great difficulty of breathing, and, in some positions, frequently a sensation of suffocation. A few weeks after commencing the tincture of iodine, a diminution of it was evident; and it continued gradually to decrease till it totally disappeared. The tincture of iodine has been very successfully administered in cases of scrofulous tumours in North America.

MALIGNANT SORE-THROAT.

Dr. Guimier, a physician of some eminence, residing in the Commune of Vouvray, has published several cases of malignant sore

throat *(angina maligna)*, in which the topical application of lunar caustic proved highly beneficial. The tonsils, the uvula, and the pharynx, were covered with membranous concretions of a grey-white, or yellow colour, and this collection was sometimes so thick and abundant about the larynx as to impede respiration. The inflammatory action was frequently extended to the membrane lining the windpipe; and previously to the adoption of this mode of treatment, many patients were suffocated by the tenacious collection blocking up the glottis. The hydrochloric acid had been used with success in a few cases; but Dr. Guimier, after a fair trial, gave the lunar caustic a preference, because the eschar it produced was limited to the part to which it had been applied, while the effect of the acid spread to the continuous parts, often to a considerable extent. Even when the disease had spread to the internal membrane of the windpipe, Dr. Guimier found the lunar caustic applied to the tonsils, &c. to produce a very happy effect. The lunar caustic has been long a favourite topical application with some eminent surgeons of London, in chronic ulceration of the tonsils, &c., which frequently follows the continued use of mercury, in affections termed pseudo-syphilitic; and we have frequently witnessed its beneficial effects in such cases, after detergent and alterative gargles, with attention to the general health, had failed to produce any essential benefit.

INVERSION OF THE EYELIDS.

Mr. S. J. Stratford, a scientific and experienced oculist of Worcester, (author of a Manual of the Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology of the Eye,) has published several cases of this truly unpleasant disease, in which the following operation completely succeeded:—

I commenced the operation, after having properly fixed the patient's head, by introducing one limb of a pair of scissors (with a blunt point) to the bottom of the fold formed by the reflection of the conjunctiva, as near the external angle of the lids as possible, and, holding them in a perfectly perpendicular direction, cut through the skin, tarsal cartilage, and membrana conjunctiva. This evidently afforded considerable latitude of motion to the lid, and being repeated at the inner angle of the inverted lid (taking great care to avoid the punctum lachrymale and horizontal canal), obviously freed the part from that constriction which was a chief cause of the complaint. The cilia now, in a very considerable degree, returned to their natural situation. I next seized a large fold of the skin of the lid, and cut off, horizontally, a considerable portion of it. This was included between the two previous perpendicular incisions: after the bleeding had ceased, I passed an armed needle through the tarsal cartilage in three situations; the two first close to the perpendicular incisions, the last in the centre between these. I then fixed the ligatures to the cheek by means of adhesive plasters, so as completely to evert the lid. A little lint, besmeared with simple ointment, and a compress and bandage, were now applied, and the patient enjoined not to disturb the plasters, &c. Very little irritation was excited by the operation; the wound was dressed daily, and the ligatures were firmly retained in their situation. About the fourth day, adhesion had evidently taken place between the cut surfaces of the horizontal wound, while the perpendicular incisions were granulating. The ligatures came away about the ninth day, when the everted lid soon returned to its natural situation, without the least inversion of the cilia. At first there appeared some disposition to permanent eversion of the lid, but this entirely subsided as the thickening of the cellular tissue of the lid was absorbed. The patient now freely expresses the very sensible relief which he experiences from the previous continual annoyance, which he purchased at the expense of a little pain, but certainly without any of the personal deformity which the excision of the tarsal margins must have produced.

ERYSIPELAS.

In a case of erysipelas of the right arm, lately admitted into St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Mr. Vincent ordered the limb, which was considerably swollen, to be "punctured in all directions," as recommended by Dr. Dobson. After twenty punctures were made over the surface of the affected part, the arm was placed in a warm bath for an hour, during which time blood continued to escape from the punctures. When taken out, it was enveloped in a bread poultice, and an active dose of calomel and jalap administered. On the following day the arm was very considerably better, and in a few days, under the application of the poultice, with a repetition of the purgative powder, the patient recovered. Previously to making the punctures, a small abscess, containing about half an ounce of pus, was opened.

DISLOCATION OF THE KNEE-PAN.

A few weeks since Messrs. Broughton and Mayo, eminent surgeons of London, published an account of a "dislocation of the knee-pan *outwards*," in which, after all the methods usually employed had failed, they had recourse to a "*sudden* and a *complete* flexion of the knee-joint, when the knee-pan, being thus disengaged from the condyle, spontaneously returned to its place. The patient was a very stout dragoon. This practice is, of course, only recommended in those cases which resist the more gentle attempts at reduction.

CHILBLAINS, RHEUMATISM, &c.

The following liniment has proved more beneficial in subduing the inflammation excited by cold, termed chilblains, than any other remedy with which we are acquainted:—

Take of *true* Barbadoes Tar, three drachms;
Olive Oil, one ounce;
Liquor of Ammonia, three drachms;
Oil of Spike Lavender, one drachm:

Mix.—To be well rubbed over the affected part with the warm hand every night and morning. The part should be afterward kept covered with fine chamois leather. If the part be ulcerated, the following ointment, thickly spread on lint, should be applied:—

Take of the true Barbadoes Ointment, two drachms;
Cinnabar of Antimony, two drachms;
Spermaceti Cerate, six drachms.—Mix.

The liniment has also been found very beneficial in cases of rheumatic pains and enlarged joints, and indolent tumours. The *true* Barbadoes tar, of which a quantity has been lately imported for the first time within the course of the last thirty years (!!) the common coal tar having been sold for the true Barbadoes tar, we believe, is at present to be procured only at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, where the liniment and the ointment may also be obtained.

THE LONG ROUND WORM—(*Ascaris Lumbricoides.*)

Mr. Rhind, in his excellent treatise on the nature and cure of intestinal worms, which we briefly noticed in our last Number, gives the following chapter on the means of expelling the long round worm from the alimentary canal:—

"Two principal objections are to be attended to in the treatment of worm affections, the destruction and expulsion of the worms, and the correction of that particular state of the general system, and, especially, the intestinal canal, which has been the cause of their formation. A great variety of remedies have been employed for the destruction of worms; they may be divided into those which act *mechanically;* those which have a *specific* power; and those which act by their purgative effects. Those medicines which are given with a view of destroying intestinal worms by their *mechanical* action, are of very doubtful operation, and, in all probability, owe the whole of their good effects to the powerful purgatives with which they are always either conjoined, or immediately followed. Even the cowhage, a remedy so much recommended by Chamberlain, and which, for a considerable time, was in much vogue for the cure of the tape-worm, though calculated to act as the most powerful *mechanical* agent, from the peculiar sharp, penetrating, and minute spiculi of which the down of the pods is composed, has never been found effectual, unless purgatives are used at the same time. The *mechanical* medicines which have been most generally used, are zinc, tin filings, iron filings, cowhage, and charcoal. Of the medicines which have a specific effect, in causing the death of these worms, there is also a considerable number: the most simple is cold, or iced water, which quickly destroys them; but from the impossibility of its being applied in this state, except in the form of a lavement, it is of very limited and uncertain use. Valerian is a common remedy, as also, onions, garlic, assafœtida, camphor, worm seeds, and most of the bitter class of herbs: Indian pink, the roots of the male fern, the prussic acid; various oils, both animal and vegetable; more especially, petroleum, cajeput, turpentine, and empyreumatic oil. The purgative medicines, which have been employed, are neutral salts, jalap, scammony, aloes, the preparations of mercury, and castor oil. The various mineral waters are more or less anthelminthick, and are useful, not only as the means of expelling the worms, but of improving and strengthening the alimentary canal, and the whole system in general."

The basilic powder was a very favourite remedy for worms with the late Dr. Cam and Dr. Campbell, of Hereford, and we have often witnessed its good effects in dislodging worms of every kind from the alimentary canal, under the directions of these eminent physicians. This powder not only acts chemically or specifically on the vitality of worms, but carries off slime, and empties the intestines, and, when worms do not exist, by removing superabundant slime and obstructions in the mesentric glands, we have uniformly found it to improve the general health of children.

The basilic powder, when mixed with gingerbread, (as the basilic nut) is readily taken by children, and the ginger and caraway seeds which enter its composition prevent griping. To remove the cause of worms, viz. debility of the digestive organs, a tonic medicine should be taken two or three times a-day. The most efficacious, and the most pleasant for children, is a weak solution of the extract of the round-leaf cornel in an infusion of roses, as the following:—

Take of the Extract of the round-leaf Cornel (not the alcaline), one drachm;
Infusion of Roses, (Lond. Pharmac.) six ounces;
Syrup of Mulberries, half an ounce.—Mix.

A large table-spoonful to be taken two or three times a-day.

As a corrective of the peculiar temperament which favours the production of worms (viz. the leucophlegmatic), the officinal saline preparations of iron are the most effectual. With this view, twenty drops of the tincture of the muriate of iron may be added to the above mixture. This mixture we have always found children take with as much pleasure as wine. It should not be taken on the same day as the basilic nut. The extract of the round-leaf cornel is much prescribed by several eminent physicians of North America as a tonic for weakly or ricketty children.

CONSUMPTION OF THE LUNGS.

A gentleman, lately returned from Barbadoes, informs us, that he has frequently observed patients, apparently in the last stage of pulmonary consumption, with symptoms of organic mischief, as very offensive dark expectoration, often tinged with blood, and almost incessant cough, recover under the use of the true Barbadoes tar. He recommends it to be taken in the form of a linctus, made with honey and conserve of roses.

DISEASES OF THE SKIN.

Mr. Green, a scientific surgeon of London, author of a treatise on cutaneous affection, has lately published a chart of diseases of the skin, in accordance with the arrangement of Rayer, which is chiefly founded on the classification, nomenclature, and distinctive characters of Willan. Differences of arrangement are noticed as they occur, and the varieties, as recorded by Willan and Bateman, shown, though they are not often regarded by Rayer.

The definitions are added, and the effects of the fumigating baths on several of these diseases, as observed by Mr. Green during six years' practice with this remedy, are also shown in the last column.

We are glad to see a nearer approach to simplicity in the arrangement of the diseases of the skin. The endless varieties of Willan and Bateman have not led to any practical advantage, but have only made what was before obscure a little less confused. These varieties, as noticed by them, are frequently nothing more than different stages of the same complaint, as may be instanced in several of these diseases, first showing themselves by vesicles, becoming pustulous, and terminating in scaliness. Our continental neighbours certainly take precedence of us in their more admirable mode of observing *system* in what they do, and that observance alone always tends to simplify; and to simplify and cure is, or ought to be, the great and grand end of medicine.

From Mr. Green's practice in this class of diseases, we might have been led to anticipate a classification more exclusively his own; but delay here only bespeaks due caution and consideration. The definitions which he has added, show that he is familiar with the characteristic distinctions of these diseases, and will enable those practitioners who have not paid much attention to them, to arrive readily at their proper appellation; and in the last column of this chart Mr. Green has shown those, amongst these diseases, for which

practitioners may with confidence recommend the fumigating baths, with expectations of benefit or perfect cure to the patients. So far this chart has its advantages; but still these diseases are but little understood, and require more studious research. Many of them are so dependent on the peculiarity of the patient's constitution, as to be incurable; but most of these diseases of the skin are local, attaching themselves to the surface from obstruction, or want of healthy tone in the capillary vessels of the skin; and we are warranted in saying, many of them may be cured by the fumigating baths alone, though some of them require perseverance in the remedy.

MIDWIFERY.

TEDIOUS LABOUR.

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTE of HEALTH.

Stithians Vicarage, near Penryn, Cornwall, Jan. 15, 1829.

SIR,—If you should deem the following case of Parturition, in which I successfully administered the Ergot of Rye, worthy of a place in your very excellent and highly interesting *Gazette of Health*, I shall feel obliged by your inserting it in your next Number. I remain, Sir, your obedient Servant and constant Reader, RICHARD BLUETT,

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Sunday Evening, Dec. 7th, 1828.—Between eight and nine o'clock, I was requested to visit the wife of Henry Dunstan, residing in the parish of Stithians, in the county of Cornwall. She was forty-one years of age, and was the mother of seven children. The general state of her health has been bad for some years, having been very debilitated, with a stricture in the œsophagus, and a varicose state of the veins of her legs. I was informed that labour came on the day before I attended her. On examining her per vaginum, I found the os uteri in a lax condition, and dilated very considerably: the head presented, which was above the brim of the pelvis. The os externum was relaxed. She informed me that a few hours before my arrival she had an hemorrhage from the uterus, mixed, as she supposed, with the liquor amnii. I could not feel a bag of water protruding. Shortly before I saw her, the uterine pains were rather severe, and almost unremitting; but from the time of my visiting her, until half-past 11 o'clock the same night, the pains were but few, and slight. I remained with her more than two hours and a half.

Monday the 8th, I visited my patient about half-past 12 o'clock, when I understood she had but little pain during my absence, except a short time before I saw her; when the pains were strong, and continued with little intermission; and soon after my arrival they almost subsided. She had slept a little during the night, and blood had for some time constantly issued from the uterus in a small quantity. On examination I found the os uteri lax, and considerably expanded; and I concluded, that if the action of the uterus were established, it would soon become fully dilated. I therefore resolved to give her the ergot of rye, in powder, and an additional reason for my resolution arose from her great debility, indicated by a thready pulse, &c. &c. At a quarter past one P. M., ascertaining that there was but little pain, and that the head of the child was above the brim of the pelvis, I ordered her to take ten grains of the powder, in a third of a tea-cup of cold water; and ten minutes after, finding no return pains, I gave her half a scruple more; five minutes subsequent to the exhibition of the second

dose, action and pains of the uterus succeeded; and ten minutes after the second dose, I gave her the same quantity, when there was a continuance of the pains; and I persevered in administering the rye every ten minutes, until she had taken eighty grains: no sickness of the stomach ensued, but the pulse was increased in strength and frequency, and the pains augmented without any intermission to the time of the expulsion of the child, which occurred twenty minutes before three o'clock P. M.

The labour, from the beginning of the action of the uterus, went on gradually, and as easily as could have been expected. Immediately after the birth of the child, I made a pressure upon the uterus by the external part of the abdomen; and having done this, I found the placenta in the vagina, which I extracted. About half-past three, P. M. I left my patient in a comfortable condition, and, apparently, safe state; after the parturition, no unnatural hemorrhage followed. The funis was entwined about the right arm of the child.

Tuesday, the 9th.—Both mother and child are doing well.

Wednesday, the 10th.—Every thing very favourable both as to the mother and child. The lochial discharge is quite natural.

THERAPEUTICS.

THE ROUND-LEAFED CORNEL—*(Cornus Circinata).*

It appears, by a late publication on the medical and chemical qualities of the species of cornus, termed, from the form of its leaves, *circinata*, by Dr. Joseph H. Robertson, of St. Croix, that the shrub has not been discovered in any part of Europe; and that it has been found chiefly in the mountainous parts of North America. Mr. Carpenter, a scientific chemist of St. Croix, who has submitted the circinata to numerous chemical examinations, states that it affords the tannin, gallic acid, resin, gum mucilage, a peculiar saline principle, and oil. The peculiar salt, he says, differs much from that of the species *florida* (cornus florida) in being less bitter and more astringent. He also finds the constituents of the circinata to be different from those of the Peruvian bark. The extract of the circinata, made by evaporating the cold infusion in a weak alkaline solution, *in vacuo*, he says, contains all its medicinal properties in great perfection. This preparation, sold under the name of the alkaline extract of circinata, is a most valuable tonic medicine, particularly in cases of indigestion from debility, or of elderly people, or debauchees, and for other cases of local as well as general debility. Dr. Ives, an eminent physician of New York, who has given the alkaline extract of the circinata a very extensive trial, observes, the result of his experience has satisfied him that it is a tonic, very superior to the Peruvian bark; and that, instead of being, like the Peruvian bark and other tonics, unpleasant to the stomach or palate, it is particularly grateful to them; and, in fact, seems to be "a kind of *natural* tonic." About 25 years ago, a person in New Haven obtained great celebrity in consequence of his successful treatment of cases of debility, from the exhibition of the extract of circinata. He employed it as a nostrum till Dr. Æneas Monson discovered it to be the round-leafed cornel. Dr. M. having often observed its extraordinary invigorating effects on debilitated subjects, employed it very extensively in his own practice. The dose of the alkaline extract is from five to ten grains

(in pills) two or three times a-day. The tincture, made by dissolving half an ounce of the alkaline extract in a pint of the spirit of orange peel, taken in the dose of a dessert-spoonful, two or three times a-day, in half a wine-glass of water, is a most grateful and efficacious tonic. Three drachms of the extract, dissolved in a quart of wine, (Sherry or Port) form a most excellent tonic wine; of which a wine-glassful may be taken, in cases of general debility, twice a-day, *i. e.* about two hours before dinner, and an hour after dinner.

About six months since, a considerable quantity of the alkaline extract of the circinata was sent by a Liverpool merchant to the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, in order that we might not only recommend it to the attention of our readers, but supply those who may be desirous to give this species of cornel a trial. Those who have taken it, and medical gentlemen who have prescribed it, having spoken in the highest terms of its tonic effects, we can confidently recommend it to the attention of our professional subscribers, and those who may require the use of a grateful and efficacious tonic. We are given to understand that a bookseller of London will shortly publish Dr. Robinson's "Dissertations on the medicinal properties and chemical qualities of the Circinata," with notes and cases of general and local debility, illustrative of its peculiar tonic powers.

The cornus circinata is particularly recommended as an excellent tonic medicine by Dr. Robinson, Dr. Ives, Dr. Monson, and others, in the last Number of the North American Medical Journal, and also by the author of the "American Pharmacologia."

CHLORIDES OF LIME AND SODA.

In a small work lately published by Mr. Fincham, a respectable manufacturing chemist of Manchester, under the title of "A Compendium of the Medicinal Properties of the Chlorides of Lime and Soda; and of their use in destroying noxious effluvia, and preserving the health of sailors and travellers during a voyage, and in warm climates;" it is stated that the chloride of lime has been found very beneficial in the glanders. "I have been informed," says Mr. Fincham, "by a friend who had lost several horses from the glanders, the remainder being evidently affected, that the disease was stopped by using the chloride of lime plentifully in his stables, and washing the nostrils of the horses with it. Mr. Lacy, an extensive and highly respectable coach proprietor of this town, has been using the chloride of lime in all his establishments, with marked advantage to the health of the horses: he informs me, that a few years since, he lost above one hundred horses from the glanders; and the disorder was only prevented spreading still further by fumigating his stables, and washing the racks and mangers with the chlorine gas; but he was, of course, obliged to remove all his horses, at a considerable expense. Sprinkling the stables, and washing the racks and mangers with the chloride of lime is equally efficacious, when the disorder rages, without removing any of the horses; and by its occasional use at night, to purify the air of close and confined stables, and mixing some with the white-wash for the walls, this and other infectious diseases may be prevented. It has also been beneficially applied to the grease in horses, the foul in bullocks, foot-rot in sheep, and mange in dogs."

The pamphlet on the efficacy of the chlorurets of sodium and calcium (chlorides of soda and lime), in cases of foul and phagedenic ulcers, may now be obtained at Messrs. Callow and Wilson's, Medical Booksellers, Princes-street; and at Mr. Highley's, Fleet-street.

THE SIMPLE AROMATIC WATERS.

Mr. Buswell, a respectable chemist of March, recommends apothecaries to make simple peppermint water, and the other simple aromatic waters, by rubbing the essential oil with a little calcined magnesia in a marble mortar; and, when well mixed, to add by degrees (continuing the trituration) the pure water. So much calcined magnesia should be used that it may appear to be a dry powder after it is well mixed with the oil. The water, when filtered, is perfectly clear, and the oil is not separated so as to adhere to the bottle like that of the distilled water. This method of impregnating water with an essential oil is certainly superior to that employed by apothecaries in general, viz. with sugar and spirit; and the waters are more pleasant to the palate than the distilled waters, which are generally stale, and more or less possess an unpleasant empyreumatic flavour.

LEECHES.

M. Hamgre has succeeded in preserving leeches a considerable time, by keeping them in small barrels, the internal surface of which has been reduced to charcoal, the bottom being covered by sand, moss and charcoal. In summer time, the water must be changed every eight days; during winter, it is sufficient to renew it every sixth week.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE PREVENTION AND CURE OF DEFORMITY.

The following lecture, delivered by Mr. Sheldrake, and published by Mr. Wakley, embraces instruction of such great importance to those who are intrusted with the management of children, and particularly to the parents of a young family, that we are induced to give it a preference to the communications of subscribers, which contain matter of less practical interest.

"This subject may be arranged under two divisions. First, that which may be practised in every gentleman's family, by those who are usually employed to take care of young children in the earliest periods of their lives; and who, indeed, would be more beneficially employed in the practices that will now be recommended, than they are in performing the duties that are commonly laid upon them. The second consists of young persons, who are so far advanced in life as to be the subjects of professional attention. I shall, at present, confine myself to the first class.

"Young children, in the families of gentlemen, are generally well managed while they are in the nurse's arms, because the anxiety of parents, and the attention of professional men, who are, at that period, much employed, prescribe a rational course of treatment, and compel the nurses to follow the course that is prescribed. It is in the succeeding stages that the mismanagement begins; and this is too often carried to an excess that is productive of lasting injury.

"The children are given to girls, or very young women, first to carry, and then to lead them about, as they acquire the power of using their limbs, to give them exercise, which, it is supposed, may be increased at pleasure. It is believed that this requires no other care but that of the servants, and of course, the children being kept in motion. As they increase in age, their exertions are increased, and the scenes in which those exertions are made, are extended to walking, to running about, and

engaging in such other exercises as the discretion of the servants shall direct; for the management of children, at this period of their lives, is believed to be so simple and so easy, that it may be safely intrusted to the care of that class of servants that has the least knowledge, and has had the least experience. Let us now inquire into this fact.

"The persons who become nursery-maids are usually the daughters of cottagers, or of persons in some inferior stations in life; they have been brought up among their natural relations, and, as persons of every class of society have peculiarities which distinguish them from all others, these servants carry the peculiarities of their own class into their new situations. As man is an imitative animal, the servants, who teach the gentleman's children to do whatever they are employed to teach, instruct them, by showing them by their own actions, what is to be done. The consequence is, that the gentleman's children learn to imitate the habits and manners of the servants, instead of those of their own class. This will happen when the utmost caution is used; but the want of care, and, sometimes, worse motives, induce those, who have the care of children, to do them very serious injuries, without having any fixed intention of doing so. Of this kind of mischief I have known many very striking examples, but shall content myself with giving one.

"A man of business, of the first class, who lived in Pall Mall, had a family of young children; the nursery-maid was regularly employed to take them, for air and exercise, into St. James's Park; but was ordered, on no account, to extend her walk beyond the length of the Palace-garden wall, so that she might certainly be found, if wanted. One of the children was not able to go alone, and of course must be carried; the other was a girl of five years old, and very well able to walk. After some time this child became unhealthy, and weak, her knee bent, her ancles were distorted, and she became a patient of mine, to have that defect remedied. No satisfactory account could be given of the cause that produced this unexpected alteration in the health and form of a child that had been so healthy; at last the servant was dismissed for some other fault, and then the whole truth became known. This girl had a love affair to manage with a man who lived at Chelsea. The only opportunities the lovers had to meet, were when she was sent to walk in the Park with the children. She then, with one child in her arms, and the other running by her side, made the best of her way to Chelsea, and, when the purposes for which her assignation was made were effected, she returned without being missed, as her mistress, taking it for granted that her orders were obeyed, did not take the trouble to see if she remained in her appointed place. The child could not go on long in this manner without feeling its consequences; she was fatigued by this excessive exercise, and cried as she walked, or rather ran, along the road; she was well beaten for this, as well as to prevent her from telling what she went through; being thus intimidated, the poor child went on in this injurious course till the servant was dismissed, when all that she had suffered was made known, and effectual remedies were provided.

"In this course of education, if it deserves the name, children are continued five or six years, or till they make the next decided step in the progress of education, which is either the preparatory school, or some private course, in which practices that resemble those which prevail in preparatory schools, are adopted. In the first course, as it has been described, if the children escape all the injuries to which they are liable, all possible means have been used to make them active, robust, healthy, and high-spirited; of which qualities, in the next stage of their education, much trouble is taken to deprive them; they are taught to remain confined to their seats for many hours in the day; to "behave pretty," as it is called, with arms folded, demure faces, and eyes fixed upon their books, to learn their appointed lessons. In this stage of education, all possible means are used to deprive them of those qualities, which it was the business of the first instructions to teach them.

"After the preparatory period of education is past, boys diverge into a course into which it is not our business to follow them; but we shall proceed to investigate the subsequent education of girls.

"The parents of those ranks for whose use these observations are intended, think it is an object of the first consequence that their daughters should obtain every perfection of form that can be acquired, and as many accomplishments as their circumstances will enable them to add to them; and, to acquire these, the schools, or practices in private, which resemble those of the schools, are resorted to. It is an object in all schools, that the scholars should be kept still and quiet for many hours in the day, that the teachers may instruct them, each in their turn, and without interruption.

The high spirits which are natural to early life, are now completely checked, and when girls, under these circumstances, are compelled to remain fixed to one place for hours together, with looks demure, and book upheld, they are said to be in good order. It will now be proper to notice some of their employments.

"The author, who has already been mentioned, has written that the practice of music is injurious to the human form; this is positively untrue, for the practice at the piano-forte, which is the most general with the ladies, is as favourable to the figure as any exercise that can be devised; the practice upon the harp, indeed, if not managed carefully, may, under some circumstances, be injurious: but when the form has been injured by imprudent practice at the harp, those injuries may be easily cured, and, with moderate care, may always be prevented. Dancing has been universally, and is still very generally, resorted to; but as I have treated on that subject in a separate discourse, I shall not enter upon it here, nor should I mention the gymnastic exercises, as they are called, for the same reason, but for the pertinacity with which they have been forced upon public attention, and intruded as being worthy of general adoption, and to supersede dancing, as a healthy as well as pleasureable exercise; as it has been shown that they are highly injurious in every respect, they certainly ought on every account to be discontinued.

"After having given this rapid sketch of the practices which have been adopted to improve, as it was thought, the persons of young people, it will be proper to point out one peculiarity which pervades the whole. The practice of every stage, as I have called it, is calculated to counteract the effect of that which immediately preceded it: thus, in the first stage, the object was to give as much activity, strength, and elasticity to the forms and spirits of young persons, as the circumstances of the case would require; the object of that stage of the treatment which immediately followed, was calculated to diminish the activity of body and buoyancy of spirits which had just been created; and the same alternation of effects pervades the whole system.

"In the course that I shall recommend to be adopted, instead of that which has been followed, I shall propose what is essentially good, and may be effectually practised at all times, by the usual inmates of a gentleman's family, with a certainty of success; so that all who will take the trouble that is necessary, will certainly give to their children all that perfection of form of which they are susceptible.

"As I shall, in other discourses, enter more largely into the theory of muscular action, and endeavour to explain some of its phenomena, in a way that has not been done or attempted, I shall content myself here with pointing out certain practices, which, if adopted early in life, and steadily followed, by persons even of ordinary intelligence, will enable them to give to young children the power of using their limbs with firmness and precision; this will become natural to them, if they are well grounded in those practices in the early period of their lives, and will enable them to acquire any other exercises they may have occasion to learn, at any future time, with more facility than they could do if they had not been previously so instructed.

"These exercises should be begun as soon as children can walk firmly alone, and understand any directions that are given to them: they should begin with the simplest exercises, one at a time, and not proceed to a second, until they are completely masters of the first. After having mastered the most simple, they should proceed to those that are more difficult, and so on progressively, till they are masters of the whole, which they should then practise carefully and regularly for a certain portion of time every day. If all children were instructed, and required to practise these exercises, they would grow up with a power of using their limbs, and a freedom from personal defects, to which so many children are subjected at present, and which are so often injurious to them in the course of their future lives. The longest room that can be set apart for this practice should be preferred; upon the floor, make a straight line the whole length of the room; a second line should be made parallel to it, and the two lines should be connected together by a return at each end, so as to make the whole one continued figure; these lines should be one inch wide in the whole of their length, and should be painted upon the boards, or described and laid down in any other durable manner. If the room is carpeted, a white tape, or web, may be fixed on the carpet to answer the same purpose.

"The child that is to be instructed must be made to stand quite erect, still, and firm, upon both feet, with the heels close together; the spine must be kept firm and erect upon the pelvis, and the pelvis equally firm upon both legs, but without being fixed in a stiff position. While the child is in that position, all its parts on one side of the

body will be equal to the similar parts on the other, and the head must and will be erect upon the spine, for it is quite impossible that it should be otherwise, while the body and all its members are held in the manner that has been described.

"When the child is familiarized to this position, and is able to stand in it for some time, say a minute or more, let her stand upon the line with her heels close together, and the inside of her great toe upon each foot close to the outside of the line; she will then be able to place her feet upon the ground firmly, and she will be able to step or stand still in the most advantageous manner. When this position is become familiar to her, she should be directed to remain in it, (without moving the body, or any member that is attached to it,) standing upon one leg, while she lifts the other by bending the knee; in this position she should remain for a few seconds, at first, then set it down in the place from which she raised it, and raise the other in the same manner; after standing upon the second foot for the same time as she stood upon the first, she is to return that to the ground, and raise the first in the same manner again: thus changing her feet, and standing upon each in its turn, till she has acquired the power of standing upon either foot, and changing from one to the other, without changing her place. She should repeat and vary this exercise, till she is able to stand for a minute or more upon either leg. When she is quite familiarized to this exercise, she is to stand firm on one foot: while she raises the other by bending, at once, the knee and the hip joint. Having stood for a short time in this manner, she should straighten the knee joint, by which the foot will be moved forward; which should then be placed upon the ground, and the other foot moved forward in the same manner. She is then to be placed upon the line, and directed to move gently forward till she has walked round the line as many times as may be found convenient or practicable.

"The use of this exercise will be very great; it will, without any improper exertion, enable her to direct her feet to any particular point, to walk evenly and firmly, habits which, when once acquired, will never afterwards be lost, unless by the grossest negligence. As the children, for whose use this practice is recommended, belong to that rank in society which gives much attention to the education of its offspring, it is not to be expected that when the importance of this practice, simple as it appears to be, is understood, it will be omitted or neglected. The only danger is, that when servants are intrusted to manage, they will neglect it, for it is the practice of ignorance to neglect or despise what appears to be simple: the authority of parents to compel the proper use of this practice, while it is a novelty, ought to enforce it, and when its effects have once been seen, its evident utility will recommend itself.

"The child, when instructed to walk in this manner, should be directed to look at its feet, and see that it places the inside of each foot exactly even with the outside of the line; when the habit of doing this is obtained, she will, in consequence, have obtained the power of standing firm upon both or either of her feet, and of walking evenly and firmly. Whoever walks well, will likewise be able to run or perform any other muscular action well; and thus all to whom this practice is rendered familiar very early in life, will have laid a solid foundation for the management of their persons in the more advanced periods, when their time and attention should be directed to objects of a different nature. Some objections, which have little real importance, may be made to beginning this practice so early in life, because it may be said that it will fatigue the child's attention, and it may be added, that it might be learned equally well at a later period; and if the old prejudice is revered, it may be said, that it will be better to let Nature, as it is called, take its course. To all this, the plain answer that ought to be given is, that it requires no mental exertion in the pupil to practise this exercise; it occasions no restraint or uneasiness. As children must have exercise to keep them in health, it will be better for them to use this exercise, which *must* have a beneficial effect, and which *may* be so managed as to have much the character of amusement, and will be better than to have them run about in what has, erroneously, been called the natural way. Persons who talk in this manner will be surprised to learn, that for human beings there is no natural way of moving about: all practise locomotion, but every class of beings move in a way that is dictated by the habits they have acquired, and differ so much from each other, that there is no resemblance between them, more than the simple fact that they all move themselves, by some inherent power, from one place to another. The country labourer walks in one manner; the labouring artisan in another, and the gentleman in a way that differs from either of the preceding.

COOPER *versus* WAKLEY.—We are authorised to state, that the declaration made by Sir James Scarlett in his address to the jury, on this memorable trial, viz. that the patient was sent to the hospital by the surgeons of Lewes, in consequence of his case being considered by them a difficult one, is not correct. The fact is, the patient had taken lodgings in Lewes, to go through the operation by Mr. Hodson, who, after sounding the bladder, considered it a very simple straight-forward case. He went to Guy's Hospital by the persuasion of a friend, to save expense, and entered without the knowledge of Mr. Hodson. No surgeon in this kingdom, except Mr. Allard, late Senior Surgeon to the Bristol Infirmary, has been more successful in performing the operation of lithotomy than Mr. Hodson, of Lewes; and we have no hesitation in asserting, that Mr. Hodson, in regard to skill and science, is not inferior to any surgeon in Europe. Had the patient continued under his care, the result *might* have been more creditable to the healing art. The gentlemen of the bar pretend to be great friends to the *liberty* of the press, and can make an affecting appeal to the passions of a jury on the effects of its abuse; but the most outrageous abuse, the "liberty of the Court," in addressing a jury or in libelling a witness, by insinuations and questions which have nothing to do with the real merit of the case, and founded on the false inventions of a petty-fogging attorney, merely to prejudice the minds of the jury against his evidence, is very fair and honourable, and the liberty of the court allows them to libel their opponents and their witnesses with impunity! These remarks, however, do not apply to Sir James Scarlett, who always disregards the calumny or libellous matter with which attornies generally load their briefs, which is unconnected with the cause. On the cross-examination of Sir Astley Cooper, the fact was elicited that he was ignorant of the collateral operation *en deux temps*, recommended when the calculus could not be readily discovered, by PIERRE FRANCO, in 1556, and although it has, within the last forty years, been successfully adopted in several parts of Europe, and the particulars published in the periodical journals. Even so late as the summer of last year, the celebrated Lizars, of Edinburgh, adopted this practice. Having made an incision into *the bladder*, not discovering the stone, he desired one of the surgeons present to attempt its extraction, who, after an ineffectual effort, gave the forceps to another surgeon, and he, not being able to discover the calculus, Mr. Lizar recommended the practice of Franco rather than endanger the life of the patient by further perseverance. The patient was accordingly conveyed to his bed, and on the following morning the calculus was found lodged in the opening. Now if Mr. B. Cooper had properly entered the bladder in the first instance, and had followed the liberal and open conduct of Lizars, his professional character would, *probably*, have sustained no injury, the sufferings of the patient would have been considerably less, and might have been at this time exerting himself for the support of his wife and family. But Sir Astley, the "giant *of operative* surgery in Europe," as he was lately designated by a lecturer, was ignorant of the collateral operation, "*en deux temps*," and in consequence of this ignorance, he boldly asserted that *no surgeon* would send a patient to his bed with a stone in the bladder after making an incision into it; an observation which, in our opinion, admits of the inference, that a surgeon ought to hold his own reputation in higher estimation than the life of a patient.

Sir James Scarlett laid great stress on the dexterous manner in which Mr. Cooper had applied a ligature to the subclavian artery, and Mr. Callaway gave his opinion that it is an operation that requires *great* anatomical knowledge!! For an aneurism in the axilla we do not know a more simple operation in surgery; and as to great anatomical knowledge being necessary to perform it, any person may acquire a sufficient knowledge of the course of the artery, or the anatomy of the parts, in ten minutes, to apply a ligature to it. When the subclavian artery is in an aneurismal state, the operation is sometimes tedious; but even in such case a more minute knowledge of the anatomy of the part is not necessary. As to the verdict, in our opinion it was given for the writer's style of writing, which we shall not attempt to justify, and the amount does not falsify the substance of the report. A case, (whether similar or not to Mr. B. Cooper's memorable operation, we shall leave to our professional readers to determine) a few years since, occurred in the theatre of Saint Bartholomew's Hospital. The operator, who became full surgeon to the Hospital by rotation, and who had been out of practice some years, but was entitled to the appointment in *consequence of having served an apprenticeship to one of the surgeons of the Hospital, for which his father paid Sir Charles Blicke five hundred pounds!!!* had introduced the gorget between the bladder and the rectum. Mr. Lawrence, observing

his great confusion, requested him to allow him to finish the operation. The operator readily complied, and Mr. Lawrence made a proper incision into the bladder. The by-law of St. Bartholomew's and Guy's Hospitals, excluding surgeons who had not served their apprenticeship to a surgeon of the Institution from the appointment, was made by the medical officers of the charities; and on account of being eligible to a lucrative appointment, some parents have given a thousand pounds with their sons to an hospital surgeon. The appointments are therefore, in fact, sold, and, by means of money, men of inferior abilities get the appointment, to the exclusion of surgeons of great scientific attainments. Is not this traffic a most infamous abuse of charity?

CHEAP BEDS, MATTRESSES, &c.—The want of a cheap, clean, and an elastic article for the purpose of filling mattresses, beds, &c. has been long felt in this country. Dried hay and straw, either alone, or mixed with common feathers, horse-hair, or wool, which have been generally used, often become musty, particularly after lying in a damp place a few days, and a very great objection to them in London is, their harbouring bugs. Within the last two years, spiral springs made with iron, have been introduced, and from their elasticity, give the idea of the mattress, or bed, being well stuffed with good feathers, or horse-hair, and some physicians have given an opinion that they are very salubrious, on account of admitting a free circulation of air. One very serious objection to this invention is, its allowing the heat produced by the body, and which during sleep should be retained by the bed or mattress, to escape too rapidly. We have heard many patients complain of having been attacked by rheumatism during the use of a spring bed; and as it evidently checks perspiration, it must necessarily be very improper for persons predisposed to rheumatism, asthma, cough, or any other diseases, in which it is of importance to keep up a determination to the skin, or to promote its secretions. On the continent, the prepared sea-grass (*alva marina*) has been for some time used for stuffing beds and mattresses; and being perfectly sweet, very soft, and elastic, it is as wholesome, if not more so, than either horse-hair or feathers. It does not imbibe moisture, and is a bad conductor of heat, and it is worthy of remark, that no kind of insect has ever been found to lodge in it. Dr. Kalkbrenner, of Hamburgh, Dr. Simon, and Dr. Ithamer, eminent German physicians, speak in very high terms of the prepared sea-grass for stuffing beds, &c. and they particularly recommend it for the beds and mattresses of hospital ships, and for tropical climates, as more cleanly, elastic, and healthy than horse-hair, feathers, or the other articles employed for the purpose. The prepared sea-grass has lately been adopted for stuffiing beds and mattresses, by Messrs. Huxley and Co. respectable Upholsterers of Cockspur Street, Charing Cross, where it may be seen.

SHERRY WINE.—A Correspondent informs us, that it is a common practice with some wine-merchants to adulterate sherry wine with cape wine, very slightly flavoured with the essence of the bitter almond. This essence has certainly been lately made by some chemists, (by distilling the bitter almond cakes,) in very considerable quantity for the use of wine-merchants. It is a powerful poison, and the pleasant bitter it imparts to the adulterated sherry is generally pointed out by the conscientious sophisticators, as a proof of its genuineness and superior quality!! Our Correspondent says, he detected this essential oil in sherry he purchased of an advertiser, and which had disordered not only his stomach and bowels, but his nervous system, and that he is confident if he had continued taking three glasses of it at dinner daily, he would not have lived a week longer. That this practice of improving the flavour of sherry and gin, by this powerful poison, is become common, we have, since we received the information, most satisfactorily ascertained. About ten years since, the essence or essential oil of the bitter almond was not an article of commerce, but within the last five years, many gallons have been made, annually, for the use of wine-merchants!!!

SUPPOSED CASE OF TRANCE.

We have received several accounts of an extraordinary case of Sarah Carter, (a young woman living with her mother in the parish of Stapleford, about four miles from Cambridge,) whom some suppose to be in a trance, and others pronounce an impostor. A few learned metaphysicians of the University of Cambridge suppose that she is really entranced, and expect some wonderful intelligence from the world of spirits when her soul returns to its material tenement; while some Irvingites are in great expectation of an announcement of the period when the Millennium is actually to commence. The case having excited considerable interest in Cambridge, some of the learned physicians of the university have visited the patient, with the

view of ascertaining if the case be real or feigned. Dr. Haviland, the Regius Professor of Medicine, who paid her a gratuitous visit, states, that the mother "seemed very reluctant that any experiment or *observations* should be made, from the apprehension, as she observed, that her daughter *might be subjected to pain or danger*." The Professor, having promised that nothing should be done to which the mother should object, was introduced to the bed-side of the young woman. The mother told him that she had not spoken nor moved for *fourteen weeks*, and had continued in the same position in which she was then lying during that period. The only thing she had taken was a little tea water and milk, which was frequently introduced into her mouth by means of a quill, and that she believed no portion of it was swallowed. The young woman was lying on her back, rather inclined to the right side; the countenance was placid, and rather pale, the cheeks plump, the mouth firmly closed, the lips pale, with much dried and clammy mucus adhering to them, but on the inside moist, and of a healthy colour; the eye-lids shut, but the eye-balls rolling; respiration was slow and irregular, but the heaving of the chest was evident. The skin of the face was warm, firm, and elastic. The pulse about 130, weak, and small; on a glass placed near to her mouth and nostrils there was no evident moisture. On stethoscoping her, the Professor distinguished a slight, but natural murmur. Respiration was performed, in the opinion of the Professor, like a person sensible of the observations that were made. During the examination of the chest, the eyes partially opened, when the Professor observed the pupils to be in a *contracted state*. The abdomen was considerably full and elastic, conveying the impression of a loaded state of the bowels. The muscles of the abdomen were not in a state of spasm or of preternatural contraction. During the time she had been confined to her bed, a whitlow had formed on a finger of the right hand, which had broken and healed, leaving only a slight redness. The skin of the arm-pits and palm of the hands was moist. Both arms were folded across the body, and all the attempts the Professor made to move them were firmly resisted.

On introducing a little water into the mouth by inserting a small quill between two of the front teeth which were a little apart, a distinct motion of the muscles of digestion was so evident as to leave no doubt of a portion having been swallowed. On opening the eye-lids, the eye ball was turned upwards. The mother declared, that during the whole time of her confinement, not the slightest natural discharge had taken place. No particular or unpleasant odour escaped from the body. The temperature of the body was natural. The manner of the mother, who frequently interrupted the Professor during his examinations, he says, implied no want of candour or wish of concealment. Her mind had been irritated by reports of the incredulity of medical men generally, and she seemed to think that the only object of the Professor was to detect imposture. The Professor has declined to give an opinion of the "*nature* of the case, because *one* visit would not justify him in forming a judgment unfavourable to the honesty of the party, but," says he, "when I found that fluids, such as milk and water, were *daily* inserted into the mouth, and swallowed, much of my wonder at the case ceased." The entire suspension of the secretion of urine, when that of the skin was abundant, was the principal circumstance, in his opinion, that justified a doubt of his case.

Dr. Roberts, of Caius College, who has also visited Sarah Carter, says, that he discovered "a motion in the tendons and muscles of the fore-arm, showing a VOLUNTARY resistance." The Doctor concludes his report with the following question:—"Is it possible that *healthy action* in the organs of respiration, transpiration, and circulation, could exist after abstinence from food, liquid and solid, for such a protracted period?"

We would advise the learned Doctor to read Dr. Reeve's work on the *torpidity* of animals. The Doctor's physiological and pathological remarks are too silly for comment. In his opinion, if the young woman be not an impostor, the disease cannot be "*properly* CLASSED either *with* epilepsy, catalepsy, hysteria or tetanus!!! Very good; but most learned Doctor, may it not be the disease termed "*carus ecstasis!*" If it be, surely it may with propriety, be CLASSED *with* catalepsy, and even with epilepsy, locked-jaw, and the hysteric affection. If the learned Doctor will so far *descend* as to refer to Dr. Good's *Study of Medicine*, he will find that the *carus ecstasis* is thus defined, "a total suspension of sensibility and voluntary motion; mostly of *mental* power, pulsation and breathing continuing, some muscles rigid, body inflexible;" and that it differs from catalepsy, in the disturbance of what is termed the *motific fluid*. In the *carus ecstasis*, this fluid appears to be secreted in excess, and *irregularly* accumulated, in consequence of which the muscles are thrown into a rigid and permanent spasm, not the incurvating the body. In the *carus ecstasis*, as well as in catalepsy, the torpitude of

external senses extends to the mind; for the patient, on recovery, has no recollection of any train of ideas that occurred to him during the fit.

This disease is most common to persons *constitutionally* disposed to *mental* estrangement, as melancholy or reverie, hypochondriacism or morbid elevation of mind. During intense reverie, the extreme senses are generally torpid to the impressions of surrounding objects during wakefulness. M. Pinel, jun. who has lately written on this disease, attributes it to inflammation of the spinal marrow. When the fit terminates, the patient rouses as from a deep sleep, seems languid, and complains of nausea and vertigo.

In a letter dated the 27th instant, from an intelligent gentleman residing in Cambridge, the writer says, he had seen her on the same day, and that the mother told him that on the 17th instant, the young woman aroused and asked for something to drink, and since that time she has, at different intervals, spoken a few words, and taken some fluids, and then relapsed into her former lethargic condition for about a week, during which time she drank water and orange juice occasionally, and that she had an evacuation of urine about every twelve hours. When she first aroused, she was impressed with the idea of having been asleep, and that, instead of fourteen weeks, she had been in bed only one night. When our correspondent wrote to us on the 27th instant, she was lying in the same state as described by the Regius Professor. We understand the Clergyman of the parish gives the girl a very good character for honesty and general demeanour. Really to us it appears evident, that the medical men who have published their opinion of her case are unacquainted with the disease termed "*carus ecstasis*," and that the patient has been, in consequence of it, unjustly considered an impostor. As to the letter of Dr. Roberts, it affords, at any rate, strong evidence of an ignorance of medical literature, for many cases of abstinence are on record in which the functions of the organs of waste were for many weeks suspended.

The case of Sarah Carter is, in many respects, very interesting, but want of room will not allow us to indulge our inclination to comment on the points which, in a physiological as well as a pathological view, are most worthy of notice. When the case has drawn to a close, we hope the experienced and scientific Dr. THACKERAY, who has attended the patient from the commencement of the malady, and during the fever which immediately preceded it, and which, no doubt, so far disturbed the brain as to occasion the malady, will favour the medical profession with a full narrative of it, through the medium of the periodical press.

QUACKERY.

MR. JOHN SAINT JOHN LONG!! A physician informs us that he called on this pretended "Curer of Pulmonary Consumption," with a view of ascertaining whether his mode of treatment was entitled to any attention. Being tall and of a spare habit, the artist immediately pronounced his case to be consumption. "Consumption," observed the physician—"why, Sir, I have not a single symptom of the disease. I am free from cough, expectoration, and fever!!" "Pshaw," said the artist, "look at your emaciation—is not that the consequence of *diseased* lungs? Do you think disease does not often lie dormant in your lungs? I tell you, your case is far advanced, and I will not undertake to cure you, but I will do my best." The physician, smiling, asked the artist what mode of treatment he would adopt. The artist replied, "before I say any thing about it, I shall require you to sign an agreement not to divulge my mode of treatment to any *living* person. The agreement being presented, the doctor, without any hesitation, signed it, and paid the fee demanded (a guinea). The doctor then went through the ridiculous ceremony of having his chest anointed by Mr. John Saint John Long, during which he had great difficulty to suppress a paroxysm of laughing. The ceremony, the physiognomy and the *pathological* observations of the artist were truly ludicrous. The learned artist little thought he was exercising his charlatanism on a physician! Notwithstanding the impudent puffs of this notoriously ignorant empiric and his friend, the Editor of the Literary Gazette, of having cured many cases of pulmonary consumption, he cannot give a reference to one person whose case was pronounced by a competent judge, pulmonary consumption, previously to having placed himself or herself under his care. Some of his dupes, who have experienced the *consumptive* effects of his practice on their purses, are become so indignant at his false promises, that the *artist* will soon be under the disagreeable necessity of exercising all his art in a court, but whether in a criminal one, or in one of law or justice, is not determined.

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PRACTICAL MEDICINE.

FOR the following valuable practical remarks on the Ergot of Rye, Accouchment, Purgative Medicine, Temperature, Paralising Effects of Lead, and Typhus Gravior, we are indebted to the experienced and scientific Dr. KINGLAKE, of Taunton.

Ergot of Rye—(Secale Cornutum.)—This article does not satisfactorily appear to have any dominion over the uterus, except in its parturient state. It certainly exerts no influence on it in its ammenorhœal derangement, nor is it probable that it would in the condition of pregnancy, until it became excited by the stimulating distension that induces the peculiar contraction which causes the expulsion of the fœtus. This is a happy circumstance, as it prevents the abuse of directing its powers to a premature exclusion of the contents of the uterus.

Medicinal influence is determined by the susceptibility of the part on which it is designed to act, to be affected by it. Hence the variations occurring in the effects of medicines at different times, and under dissimilar conditions of excitable power.

The ergot of rye would perhaps, act as powerfully in an excited state of the stomach and intestines, or on any other viscus, as it does on that of the uterus. In this view of its efficacy, it may be rather considered as a general than as a specific stimulant.

Accouchment.—Preparatory to this event, a broad bandage should always be in readiness for immediate application after the birth of the child. It may be so contrived and adjusted, as to make that equal and effective pressure over the region of the uterus that would sufficiently obliterate its cavity to prevent any hurtful effusion of blood from it. It would also afford the mechanical support to the abdominal viscera that is necessary to their healthful state.

Numerous and deplorable are the instances of female life having been lost for want of due attention to this simple measure of precaution. The personal presence and occasional aid of the accoucheur may be a source of confidence and benefit to the patient, but, generally speaking, those advantages may be justly held to be more dispensable, than suitable compression of the abdomen after the delivery of the child. This highly important assistance should not be delayed until the placenta be removed, but be applied as soon as possible after the exclusion of the fœtus. The pressure afforded by the bandaging will facilitate the expulsion of the placenta, and effectually obviate the sanguineous accumulation and consequent flow that often induce faintness, and even death itself.

It sometimes happens that an uncontracting state of the uterus after parturition causes its cavity to be filled with blood, which, coagulating in that situation, prevents its escape through the vagina. This internal bleeding occasionally produces mortal syncope, without

announcing its destructive tendency by any external appearance. In those instances, and in every case in which an effusion of blood continues for some hours after the removal of the placenta, if the quantity be sufficient, considerably to diminish the fulness and strength of arterial action, it may be reasonably presumed, that a distending coagulum occupies the cavity of the uterus, and counteracts the contraction that would cause a cessation of the hæmorrhage.

Those occurrences, whether the bleeding be inwardly concealed, or outwardly exhibited, are of a serious nature, and should be promptly met by the only appropriate and effective remedy, which consists in introducing the hand into the uterus, and in removing from its cavity any deposit that may prevent the restraining contraction which should naturally ensue parturition. This manual aid at once frees the uterus from hurtful distension, and assists, by the mechanical excitement which it occasions, in effecting the necessary contraction.

It has happily occurred to me to have rescued several females from impending destruction, by proposing and enforcing the treatment here recommended, and which, in my opinion, is the only mode of remedy that can prove adequately availing in those perilous emergencies. To abandon a case of hæmorrhagic effusion from the uterus after parturition, to its natural course, in the expectation that it will in due time spontaneously cease, is to consign the unhappy subject of such neglect, at least to imminent danger, if not to inevitable loss of life.

Purgative Medicine.—Variety of articles in the composition of purgative medicine insures and augments the cathartic influence. If one substance should not act, another may, and when an excitement has been produced in the mucous membrane of the intestines, the whole will co-operate, and prove more effective than could have occurred without the combination.

It seems to be a physiological principle in the *modus operandi* of medicinal agents, that the excitable power should be actually impressed by the peculiar influence that is exerted; and then the capability of being farther and consecutively affected, furnishes the desired opportunity for carrying on the medicinal efficiency as circumstances may require.

In the relief and cure of morbid excitement, whatever may be its description, it is important to produce a countervailing impression, on which may be founded the means of overcoming the diseased action that may exist. Until an inroad be made on the distempered condition, by which vital power is disturbed, there can be no possibility of successfully combating it with medicinal agency. It is, therefore material, in the first instance, to make a salutary impression by suitable efficacy, and then the advantage gained may be pushed to a curative extent.

Temperature.—In cases of a deficient flow of the circulating fluids to the cutaneous surface, by which the interior of the system becomes burthened, and visceral congestions are produced, an adequate and uniform temperature appears to be the most direct, efficient, and

permanent remedy. The practice of sending patients labouring under pulmonary affection into foreign climates, for the benefit of congenial and salubrious warmth, is correct in design, but is too commonly fraught with the almost inevitable destruction of the adventurers. The personal difficulties to which they are necessarily subjected in proceeding thither, and the want of domestic arrangements to which they may have been accustomed, and which are indispensable in their diseased state, are sadly harassing, and often irreparably injurious.

The practice also of directing the phthisical patient to encounter the molesting annoyances of a sea voyage is replete with mischief, and in a large majority of instances, hastens the dissolution of the sea-jaded invalid. A substitute for what is sought in warmer latitudes and in marine excursions, may be most advantageously obtained by fitting up two or three communicating rooms, so as to admit of sustaining in them a temperature, so regulated, as to be uniformly confined to a range from about 55 to 65 degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer. By this contrivance, the patient may be enabled incessantly to breathe in the degree of heat that may be the most comfortable to natural feeling, and the most conducive to health. Pursuing uninterruptedly this course for six or eight months, has had, in several instances within the writer's knowledge, the happy effect of subduing pulmonary affections of an unpromising character and threatening tendency.

By this most soothing and gratifying remedy, the circulating fluids, and also the excitable principle of life, have been equally distributed and salutarily balanced on the cutaneous surface. With this paramount advantage, the several visceral functions, with the various subordinate secretions essential to the healthful state, have been speedily ameliorated, and ultimately re-established. The curative influence of this very natural and powerful remedy has been early, progressive, and lasting; and why it is not in the foreground of medical recommendation and popular adoption, can only be explained by its being less factitious and complicated than the ordinary routine treatment.

If persons in the incipient stage of pulmonary consumption would resort to the uniform temperature derivable from apartments suitably arranged for that purpose, it is reasonable to suppose that many thousand individuals in England alone, would be annually rescued from the inevitable mortality awaiting the present desultory and unavailing mode of management, pursued in that most destructive malady. The best feelings of humanity therefore, as well as the most correct considerations of medical science, should enjoin as imperative, the full and unqualified adoption of this most solacing and efficacious remedy.

Climacterical Disease.—The deviations from constitutional health which are almost necessarily occurring at about the age of sixty in both sexes, are essentially connected with diminished vital energy. If the defalcation be manifested generally throughout the system, no definite disease arises, but a failure of healthful power is experienced, known and expressed by an unusual sense of debility. This reduced

state of vital power continues without sensible exasperation, or even much consciousness of growing disease, for a longer or shorter period, according to the peculiar circumstances of the declining stamina. At length however, indigestion, hepatic obstruction, pulmonary congestion, cerebral oppression, or general torpor, may severally or conjointly ensue. In those cases, the constitutional strength is undermined and worn, the various functional processes of life having drained its resources, and impaired the inherent capability for restoration. The morbid affections therefore, occurring in this waning period of existence, accrue from partial exhaustion, and are destitute of the rallying power that emanates from staminal or unimpaired strength.

If these climacterical dilapidations of health should not induce structural derangement, or painfully affect the nervous fabric, no acute suffering will be experienced. On the contrary, the diminishing energy of vital power occasions proportionate torpor, and the character of the resulting disease will be that of visceral plethora or congestion, scanty and vitiated secretions, dyspeptic ailment, intestinal inaction, renal sluggishness, and cellular effusion.

The duration of this course of natural decline is chiefly determined by constitutional circumstances. The wide diversity obtaining in these inherent conditions, in a degree isolates every occurring instance, and renders it almost exclusively amenable to its own peculiarity. Some constitutions are more tenacious of life than others. Some are readily vulnerable, whilst others are comparatively proof against injury; yet all must, sooner or later, succumb to the devastating influence of time and use.

The indication for relief on those occasions consists rather in palliative than curative expedients. The one may be practicable, the other unattainable; and the unavailing attempt to effect what may be impossible, may occasion an injurious neglect of what may be accomplished.

Oppression of the stomach should be studiously avoided by diminishing the usual quantity of nutriment, especially that of animal substances. Fermented liquors should be sparingly taken; the bowels should be kept duly active; more sleep than heretofore, if possible, would be salutary; brisk friction with a flesh-brush over the visceral regions, every morning and evening during at least fifteen minutes; uniformly sustaining sufficient warmth on the feet by additional clothing, if necessary, and cautiously preserving them from accidental dampness, would be among the leading adjuvants in preventing the natural infirmities of advancing age from lapsing into severe and destructive disease.

Swallowing Poisonous Substances.—On these distressing occasions it is of the utmost consequence that no time should be lost in obviating the impending mischief. All calculations as to the chemical influence of re-agents in destroying the peculiar arrangement on which the poisonous quality may depend, should give place to mechanical expedition and efficacy. Whatever the deleterious substance taken may have been, vomiting, with the least possible delay, should be excited; and this will be most immediately and efficiently produced,

either by introducing the fore-finger, the feathered end of a quill, an œsophagus bougie, the handle of a common table-spoon, or any other instrument that might be commodiously passed through the posterior fauces into the upper part of the gullet. The immediate vomiting thus produced, will most likely force out of the stomach at least a portion, if not the whole of the noxious substance that may have been swallowed, and which, if retained but for a short time, might cause destructive inflammation.

When full vomiting, in two or three instances, has been thus effected, soap, dissolved in warm water, should be drank as copiously as possible; after which, the stomach should be mechanically excited, as before stated, to procure an immediate rejection of the fluid, and with it, presumptively any remaining portion of the offending article that had been taken. After ample vomiting has been obtained, an ounce of castor oil, with an equal quantity of olive oil, should be given. If this be rejected, it may be repeated, and followed at intervals of every fifteen or twenty minutes, during three or four hours, by half a pint of luke-warm milk, impregnated with either the mucilage of gum arabic, or the white of eggs.

The main object in these deplorable emergencies, is despatch. There is scarcely time for the deliberation of science; all the promptitude of direct practical relief is urgently wanting. The stomach pump may not be at hand, and if it were, it probably would not dislodge the poisonous substance so effectually as the vomiting contraction of the stomach from mechanical excitement, would disgorge it.

After the stomach has been as completely emptied of its hurtful contents as could be accomplished by vomiting, time is afforded for combating the quality of the article by its chemical antidote. Thus, if either the mineral acids, the oxalic acid or arsenic, should have been swallowed, soap and water, to which may be added magnesia, potass, or soda, may be freely given. If either alkalies or narcotics, the vegetable acids, such as lemon-juice, and vinegar, diluted with water, should be largely taken.

Destructive poisoning may be instantaneous, but it is usually a process of some short delay, indeed too short to admit of much parley or consideration. It is too speculative to aim at neutralizing or overcoming the difficulty in the stomach. The expedient of forcing the substance, whatever it may be, out of its cavity, is the all-in-all remedy, the *conditio sine qua non* of relief. It would therefore, on these emergent occasions, be inexcusable to neglect the more direct and certain remedy, for that which would be more circuitous and fallible.

Paralizing Effect of Lead.—In a case of neuralgia, affecting the side of the face, in which the pain was unremittedly and insufferably acute, at my suggestion, one drachm of an ointment, composed of one part of superacetate of lead, and three of hogs' lard, was rubbed into the affected part, and repeated every four hours. The first application lulled the pain, the second subdued its acuteness, and the third so far diminished the morbid sensibility, as to induce a sense of coldness and torpor in the situation that had been so grievously tortured.

The altered condition of the diseased sensorial power was that of reduced energy, in which sensibility was nearly annulled. This state was characterised by a dull sensation in the part for a few days only, when the natural power of feeling became gradually restored. The efficacy of this application probably arose from its temporarily depriving the vital power of its sensitive property, or, in other words, from incapacitating the nervous structure for exercising its natural functions of feeling.

In all cases of extreme local pain, accessible to the topical application of such a sedative remedy, it would seem to be an effectual agent for affording the desired relief.

Typhus Gravior.—In a case of this description, in which the symptoms indicated approaching dissolution, after the disease had existed upwards of six weeks, three grains of calomel and two of antimonial powder, were given, under my direction, every four hours. In the course of three days ptyalism was induced, when the deathly aspect of circumstances assumed an amended character. The apparent benefit rapidly advanced, and terminated in about a week afterwards, in decided convalescence.

Eventual recovery ensued, which, in my apprehension, was exclusively due to mercurial excitement, equalizing the distribution of the circulating fluids, and also that of vital power, and likewise in restoring the healthful state of the different secretions, which had been variously disturbed and vitiated, pending the morbid influence of protracted febrile action.

TAUNTON, *Jan. 30th*, 1829.

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTE of HEALTH.

An example of Saint Vitus' Dance, from an extraordinary cause, and which was cured by applications directed to the back, by EDWARD HARRISON, M.D. F.R.A.S. Ed.

Miss Isabella Porch, of Lime-street, aged ten years, has a fair complexion, with light eyes, and brownish hair. She was naturally well formed, is of a lively disposition, and rather tall of her age. To counteract her increasing deformity, the horizontal position has been strictly enforced by her mother, for the last seventeen months. She has remained in excellent health, during the whole period, nor has the swelling increased, since recumbency was adopted.

I found upon examination, the three last dorsal, and five lumbar vertebræ raised into a large highly elevated posterior arch. It was free from pain, had no discoloration, and bore pressure without inconvenience. Pulse natural, appetite good, bowels regular, and she sleeps well.

The following narrative, drawn up by her anxious mother, details the history of the complaint from its commencement to the present time:—

"My daughter left London in June, 1819, on a visit to some relations in the neighbourhood of Frome, Somersetshire. She was nearly

four years of age, and at the time in an excellent state of health. She was first seized in February, 1820, with fits, which the faculty called Saint Vitus' Dance. After she had been afflicted with them three weeks, she came home, and an eminent accoucheur was consulted. Under the influence of the fits, each of which was of about half an hour's duration, her right arm and leg were in constant motion. They kept turning round perpetually backwards and forwards; the former at the shoulder joint, the latter at the hip. She had no power over the affected limbs, their motions being quite involuntary. Her face on the same side was contracted, and the corner of her mouth drawn outwards. She could not speak so long as the fits continued, her tongue appearing too large for her mouth. They returned three or four times in the day, but never attacked her in the night. When they were over, she appeared tired and fatigued, but was never sleepy. She was quite sensible in the fits, nor were her faculties in the least impaired by them. They continued to return for two months, and gradually left her. From the excessive weakness brought on by the disorder, it was deemed proper, in the following May, to send her to Brighton, for the advantage of sea air and bathing. The bathing appearing to disagree and relax the system, she returned to London in July. All her joints, and in particular those of her wrists and fingers, had become exceedingly debilitated, while she was at the sea, and admitted of being much bent in all directions. She had the misfortune to be thrown out of a gig soon after her arrival at home, but did not appear to be much hurt by the accident.

"On her second return, she was constantly complaining of great weakness and pain in the small of her back. This showed itself by her frequently putting her hand to the part, by her often stumbling, and being easily thrown down on every slight occasion. Her limbs were so feeble and numb, that she could not walk, even short distances, without support. Alarmed at these circumstances, her back was frequently examined by myself and others. Nothing remarkable could be perceived, till sometime in October, when one of the lumbar vertebræ was observed slightly to project. Her eye now became inflamed, and an experienced oculist was consulted for it. This complaint was soon removed, and she continued in delicate health for some time longer.

"In the latter part of the ensuing December, she was again seized with Saint Vitus' Dance. I took her immediately to the same accoucheur, who prescribed aperient medicines, and directed fourteen ounces of blood to be taken from the back of her head, by means of cupping. At this visit, I showed him the protuberance in her back. It consisted of a single joint, which was considerably raised. He treated the swelling with great levity, 'declaring it would never be of any moment to the child.' During the cold weather, she had frequent attacks of spasms in both arms and both legs, attended with excruciating pain. These continued about ten minutes at a time, and returned every two or three days, for several successive weeks. She had about twelve in all. They left her imperceptibly, and after they were gone, she always fell asleep. These fits were attributed to debility induced by the cupping, and loss of blood from it. The pain and

weakness in the back continued for some length of time. In July, 1821, the eye became affected, which occasioned another consultation with the oculist above-mentioned, who is also an experienced surgeon. He examined her back, and was told what had been said. His answer was, 'let me tell you, it will be of very great moment to your daughter,' and ordered her immediately to the sea side. She was taken a second time in the following August to Brighton, where she remained fifteen months under the care of a resident physician, who ordered her the warm bath, and to lay constantly on a plain flat board. This was done, together with sea bathing, which was afterwards resorted to. She was constantly taking calomel with aperients. In short, he said she could not live without such medicines. This gentleman recommended a caustic issue to be inserted on each side of the loins. The application was never tried. While there, her eye was frequently inflamed, and she became more and more debilitated. She was at length brought home in a very weak, feeble state; her back much worse. I and her father became so thoroughly disheartened by her general appearance, that we laid aside all medicine in September, 1822, determined to confide her case wholly to the operations of nature. In the same month we took her again into Somersetshire, for the benefit of fresh air, lying flat in the carriage, and travelling by easy stages. While there she was permitted to run about as she liked, and was placed under no control. In consequence of this unrestrained liberty, the swelling of her back increased considerably, and the inflammation in her eye returned with greater violence than before. The latter continued several months unabated, notwithstanding the application of a seton to her neck, and the employment of various internal remedies. She remained in the country till April, 1824. She returned home in very weakly health, though during the time of her being in Somersetshire, she greatly recovered it, but was subject to the same fits of chorea, which always came on *after exercise*. Since her return the reclining posture has been strictly enforced, and the fits have entirely left her. This practice was carefully persisted in from April, 1824, till September, 1825, when she was placed under Dr. Harrison's care. She had remained in excellent health during the whole period of reclining. I am however quite sure, from various circumstances as well as former experience, that the fits would at any time have been reproduced by her leaving the couch, and resuming her former active amusements for only a few days.—Sept. 5th, 1825."

The usual treatment was adopted and continued, till the swelling was completely subdued. During the whole period she remained well, preserving a good appetite, and a healthy complexion. The deformity having been entirely reduced, the curative means were discontinued.—March 18th, 1826.

Miss I. Porch has enjoyed uninterrupted good health, since the last report. She is grown considerably taller and stouter. There has been no return of the chorea, though she goes regularly to school, and takes a good deal of exercise daily, on foot, or in a carriage.—Feb. 10th, 1829.

EXPLANATION OF SYMPTOMS.—I entered upon the treatment of this interesting case in Sept. 1825. The lumbar swelling was

dispersed, by the process so often detailed,* in March 1826. During this interval, the patient enjoyed good health and excellent spirits. She experienced no feeling of chorea, nor has it subsequently returned. We have, I think, in the instance before us, convincing proofs of a close union subsisting between chorea and the vertebral column. The striking feature, indeed the only sign of bodily infirmity, appeared in the lumbar projection. In order to connect it with chorea, we may premise, that the first attack was in Feb. 1820.

She was sent to the sea coast in the following May for the improvement of her general health, and left it in July. "On her arrival at home," says the mother, "I was alarmed to hear her complaining of great weakness and pain in the small of her back. She frequently stumbled on level ground, and was easily thrown down. Her limbs were so feeble and numb, that she could not walk, even short distances, without support." These infirmities afford unanswerable testimony, that something was seriously amiss. A slight projection was first discovered by her mother in the following October. Let us not hastily conclude, because the projection was not sooner perceived, that none actually took place before the chorea appeared. The symptoms had already attained a degree of intensity, which could not be the result of a few days or weeks; more time was required, if I am permitted to reason from the analogy of similar cases.

The mother, however watchful and solicitous, was not likely to find out a small enlargement in that division of the column, nor the slight deviation of a single joint. Even experienced practitioners have been frequently deceived in these respects. I have already adduced several examples, where the deviation has been overlooked for several years, and shall enumerate others in the course of the work. We may, I think, infer, under the circumstances, that the swelling had subsisted sometime before it was noticed, and even before the first appearance of chorea. We are led to this conclusion because, after the gibbosity had attained its utmost height, the child was always well in the horizontal position. On its interruption for only a few days, the fits constantly returned, so long as the swelling remained. No sooner was it removed, than the fits entirely left her, from which we infer that the deformity and fits bore a relation to one another. This inference must, I think, be admitted, whatever difficulties we may find in explaining the connexion.

SECOND CASE

Of Saint Vitus' Dance, from an extraordinary cause, communicated by EDWARD HARRISON, M. D.

Mrs. Brobins, of Alford, in Lincolnshire, aged about 90, of a thin and spare habit, was the mother of several children. She had through life enjoyed excellent health, the consequence of her temperate and methodical habits. April 20th, 1812, she was seized with irregular motions of the superior extremities. They kept increasing for several days, when the inferior became similarly affected. Her attempts to perform any kind of work, and especially to convey meat or drink to

* See Dr. Harrison's Observations on Spinal Diseases.

the mouth, were attended with constant mistakes, which seldom failed to excite the laughter of bystanders, and in which she generally took a part. She could not direct her steps in going from one place to another, so as to proceed directly to the spot, one of the feet dragged, and made a sort of semicircular turn in walking. She continued in this state, with scarcely any alteration, till the following June, when she expired rather suddenly.

Dr. Veitch, of Horncastle, and I, were suffered next morning to examine the head. On removing the skull, we found the dura mater looking flabby and very pale, as did the tunica arachnoidea, and pia mater. There was an unusual quantity of moisture lying between these several membranes. The brain, when cut into, appeared extremely pale, but was of the usual consistence. On laying open the ventricles, we found them distended with a fluid, which was nearly pellucid. A large quantity of the same kind of liquid flowed freely and in great abundance out of the theca spinalis. The chord and its membranes, as far as we could trace them through the foramen magnum, presented a similar hue to that of the cerebrum, and its involucra. No other morbid appearances were discovered, though we carefully examined the different parts of the brain and its membranes. As we were not prepared to meet with any preternatural quantity of fluid in the skull or spinal tube, we incautiously suffered some of it to escape upon the floor. We could not, therefore, measure the quantity lodged in the brain and theca; but we were of opinion, that it did not amount to less than six ounces, and probably considerably more. She retained her faculties almost to the very last. Indeed, only the day previous to her death, she was considered better; and it was upon some sudden motion, either in rising from her bed or from the night chair, that she expired. She had always been considered what is called a nervous person; but from regular habits of every description, she was unusually healthy, and remained free from complaint, at her advanced age, till the period above alluded to, and she had not been in the habit of taking any medicine, excepting a little aperient electuary.

REMARKS.—The accession of idiopathic chorea, after puberty, is, as far as I know, a very rare occurrence. It is a disease of earlier youth, and generally vanishes on the full development of the constitution. Nosologists class it among the neuroses, supposing it to emanate from the nervous system. I have not met with another instance where chorea began in old age. At that period, the nerves are too much blunted to suffer from chorea under ordinary circumstances. We therefore presume to assert that, in the present instance, the complaint did not originate in the usual way, but in the serous deposit within the brain and spine. That extraneous matters lodged in the theca spinalis induce very distressing nervous symptoms, we know from the following case,* and also from another, published by Mr. Chevalier.† In the latter, a girl, 14 years old, complained of great anguish in her back, which was aggravated on sitting up. The pain kept increasing for several days. After an unusually severe attack

* See the next case, by Dr. Briggs. † Med. Chirug. Trans. Vol. III.

the mother thought she discovered a slight projection of the spinous processes in the lumbar vertebræ. "I was sent for," says Mr. Chevalier, "but could discover nothing in the back that was not natural, nor was any particular pain excited by pressure. The effort to sit up distressed her much. On the following morning, to my great surprise I was informed that early in the preceding evening, she complained of a sudden and violent increase of pain, and immediately became convulsed. When the convulsions had continued five hours she expired. I examined her body in the presence of Mr. Johnson, of Mortimer-street. There were no traces of disease in the brain, or in any of the thoracic or abdominal viscera. I found the cavity of the spinal canal close to the seat of the pain filled with extravasated blood, which, from its florid colour, must have been arterial, and which covered the whole of the cauda equina."

The seat of the pain naturally leads to a supposition, that the effusion took place from a blood-vessel situated within the lumbar tube, where, by irritating the spinal cord, it excited the fatal convulsions.

(To be continued.)

PHYSICAL MANAGEMENT OF INFANTS,

By Dr. Dewees, of Philadelphia.

The Duties of the Mother after the Month, &c.—There is no solicitude more natural, or more painful, than that which a young and inexperienced mother feels, when, for the first time, she is left to her own guidance in the management of herself and child, by the departure of her nurse; for up to this moment, she looked to her for every direction, and for the fulfilment of every necessary and important office, as well for herself as for her child. When left to her own discretion, she feels, with more than necessary force, the responsibility of a mother, on whose care and judgment the future health and welfare of her child depend. She is willing to suffer privations, or even to make sacrifices for its benefit, but is ignorant when the one might be necessary, or where the other may be availing. Uncertain, from want of experience, of the propriety of any thing she may do for either its comfort or its use, she trembles lest she commit an error; nor is she confirmed in her own opinion until she has the cold and negative proof that what she has done has not done harm; or from too great an indulgence of her fears she may neglect the most common and obvious of her duties.

The delightful task to the experienced mother, of washing and dressing her infant, to her is a source of inexpressible anxiety. She applies the water to its body with a sparing and trembling hand; the child perhaps cries upon its application; the over sensitive mother becomes alarmed, lest she has given it unnecessary pain, or has done something improper; and, becoming agitated, it is now partially washed, and imperfectly dried; or, she abandons the operation to one of less feeling, and of, perhaps, no more experience than herself.

I once witnessed a most interesting scene between a young mother and her husband, upon an occasion similar to the one of which I am

now speaking.—I was chatting with a young lady in a lively manner, when her husband suddenly entered the room—she sprang upon her feet, and violently clasped him round the neck, and with a convulsive cry of exquisite pleasure, she sobbed out, "I dressed our Julia to-day entirely with my own hands!" And never did I see a finer subject for a skilful painter than the one presented by this interesting couple at this moment. I soon learnt that the performance of this duty had, up to that moment, been one of great misery to the too timid mother.

I would earnestly recommend every mother with her first child, to try her skill daily at washing and dressing her infant, a week or ten days before her nurse leaves her, that she may become familiar with the routine, and gain a little experience in the method.

The next anxiety which a young mother feels, is upon the subject of what is most proper for her to eat and drink "*as a nurse.*" For this information she appeals to those whose longer experience she supposes would well qualify them to answer. By one, certain articles of diet are recommended as indispensable; by another, they are condemned as improper, if not as positively injurious. Other substances are extolled in their turn; but unfortunately, these are forbidden by other advisers, and that with an earnestness that bids defiance to either argument or resistance. Perplexed by such discrepancies, she knows not what plan to pursue; and when she has become almost a prey to anxiety, some sensible friend lays down a rule which, as a general one, is the only one that should have been given at first, namely, to eat and drink such articles of diet as her former experience had proved did not disagree; and to pursue this plan, unless a farther experience should declare them to be improper or injurious to herself or child.

No advice perhaps can be more safe and judicious than this; for I have almost uniformly observed, that whatever food agreed with the mother was sure to do so with the child; therefore, such substances as are said to disturb the latter will almost always be found to have disagreed with the mother previously. Nor is this of difficult explanation. Any substance with which the stomach is not familiar, or to which it is not entirely reconciled, will be either rejected altogether, or will be but incompletely digested—if it be but imperfectly assimilated, it will enter the system as ill elaborated chyle; and this necessarily will make a corresponding change in the quality of the milk. In this state it is received by the child; its stomach not being able to subdue it to a proper nourishment, flatulency is produced, or perhaps even vomiting, to the manifest injury of the infant.

Certain liquors, as ale, porter, beer, &c.; certain substances, as cabbage, sweet potatoe, pickles, vinegar, &c. are all, in their turn, said to disagree with the child—that is, as I would insist, disagree with the mother; they should therefore be abandoned without hesitation for her own sake; for there the mischief begins; but there it will not stop, unless she have sufficient resolution to give them up; for her child will soon feel the effects of such irresolution, and how extensive these may become it may be impossible to say.

Serious mischief is oftentimes done by the mother attempting to remedy every temporary diminution of milk, by increasing the

quantity of her food, or by imagining that some stimulating drink will answer this valuable end. Hence indigestion, fever, and sometimes a habit is generated of too freely indulging in ardent spirit. This practice has for its excuse, that the milk fails because the woman is weak, owing to her not taking a sufficiency of nourishment; hence, too much feeding is indulged in, to remedy this supposed weakness; a task is now imposed upon the stomach it cannot perform, however healthy it may be, and indigestion must of course sooner or later be the consequence. Or owing to some trifling disturbance in the system, of a temporary kind, the secretion of milk may be for the moment suspended or diminished; an attempt is made to recall it by an increase of food, by which a slight inconvenience is converted into a permanent derangement of the system; or a fever of even a dangerous character may be generated. Or owing to a false theory or imperfect observation, it has been supposed that certain liquors have a control over the secretion of milk; and hence the too free use of certain combinations, in which ardent or fermented spirits too largely enter; thus porter, ale, milk-punch, &c. become the ordinary beverage of nurses, too often to the destruction of their morals.

I must not, however, be supposed to deny the influence of certain solid as well as fluid substances, on the secretion of milk; this would be turning my eyes from reason as well as experience—for it is obvious, unless the body be properly supported, there must soon be a diminution of milk. I only mean to insist, that it is the nutritious, and not the stimulating part of diet that is subservient to the plentiful and healthful formation of this fluid. In proof of this, I need only observe, that I have often been consulted upon the subject of the failure of milk, where an anxious mother herself, or a hireling nurse was concerned, and been informed by them that they had tried every thing with a hope of improving it; such as rich victuals, porter, ale, beer, milk-punch, &c., without success, or it was followed perhaps by a diminution of it.

In such cases I have often succeeded in producing a plentiful supply of milk by adopting the opposite plan of treatment; for it must be borne in mind, as an important truth, that this failure proceeds more frequently from an over, than from an under quantity, of food or of drink. It is a fact well known to all who have paid attention to the consequences of arterial excitement, that when it amounts to even moderate fever, the milk almost immediately diminishes in quantity; and also, when this action is diminished, (provided it had not continued too long) by suitable remedies, that the secretion of milk again becomes more abundant.

Upon this principle, I have frequently prescribed evacuants and abstinence, to promote the secretion of milk. With a view to illustrate this situation of the breasts, under an increased excitement of the system, and the advantage, nay, the absolute necessity of reducing the force of the blood-vessels, for the purpose of restoring their secretory functions, we will relate one of several cases in which this plan was pursued.

Mrs. ——— informed me with great concern, that she would be under the necessity of procuring another wet-nurse for her child, as

the milk of the one she had diminished so rapidly as to make her certain her child could not be half nourished. It had begun to fail about three weeks before, without any evident cause; and though she had constantly tried the most generous diet and cordial drinks she could hear of, still it diminished daily, and was now so reduced as to scarcely offer a plenty to the child once in twenty-four hours; or rather, the whole quantity furnished in that period would not amount to more than one good meal.

I requested to see the nurse. She was a young healthy looking woman, of florid complexion and clear skin, and without a single mark that would lead to the suspicion of a deficiency of milk from any imperfection of constitution—her milk was six months old, as it is called: she had been engaged in this family about three of that time. She was from the country, and for some time gave entire satisfaction as to her conduct, temper, health, and quantity of milk. Upon being questioned, I found she was living upon a much more generous and stimulating diet than she had been previously accustomed to; she not only ate more at each meal than she had formerly done, but ate a greater number of meals; and instead of drinking milk, water, or milk and water, as she was wont to do before at such times, she was indulged in porter, ale, beer, milk-punch, &c. with a view of keeping up her milk.

She complained of having had occasional headach; that she rested badly at night; had a disagreeable taste in her mouth in the morning; that her tongue was furred, and that her pulse was full and frequent. It was evident her system was too much excited by her regimen, and that nothing would restore her milk but a reduction of it. I accordingly ordered her to be bled; to take a brisk dose of the Epsom salts; confine herself to a strict vegetable and milk diet, and to drink nothing but water.

At first, I experienced much opposition to this plan; but it was eventually adopted; and with such complete and rapid success, that in a week there was a sufficient secretion of milk. It may be proper to observe, that this woman after this period confined herself to a plain, simple diet, and never after had occasion to complain of a deficiency of milk.

This case, among many others, proves that this plan of wealthy families dieting their wet-nurses is totally wrong. As little change should be made in the diet of the nurse as is strictly consistent with sufficient nourishment, and none perhaps in her habits of employment—that is, she should not exchange an active for a passive life. If she has been accustomed to work, give her, by all means, uniform employment. If she has been much exposed to the air and weather, let her and the child have the advantage of air and exercise upon all proper occasions: the extremes of heat and cold should of course be avoided, as well as a wet atmosphere.

This case also well illustrates the position I have endeavoured to sustain, namely, that a stimulating diet is not always the best method to procure an increase of milk. But at the same time, I am far from declaring that a more generous diet may not be *occasionally* necessary; but such cases are by no means so common as is generally imagined, and still more rarely, is a stimulating one proper.

The remedies which I have ever found to contribute most to the improvement of the milk are, regular exercise in the open air, milk and water, milk alone, malt tea,* treacle posset,† or porter or ale posset,‡ when a mild stimulus may be required. These may be drank freely, at any period of the day or night; and the nurse who may employ them will find herself much satisfied with their effects.

Having, in foregoing pages, considered what may be proper for the woman during the periods of gestation, labour, and during the periods of confinement; also what may be deemed important to the child after its birth to the end of the month, it may be farther useful to bring the whole of our instructions upon these points into a condensed form; we shall therefore sum up the various directions we have given, divested of the arguments by which they were sustained, in the form of a "Recapitulation." By this means the reader can in a moment become possessed of the instructions, without going through a second time the reasonings. This plan will contribute to aid the memory much, since the directions are numerous, and perhaps, in some instances novel; and may require repetition to fix them sufficiently well upon the recollections of those who may wish to abide by them themselves, or merely to inform themselves of what can be said upon this interesting and highly important subject. The Recapitulation will be given in our next number.

DISEASES OF THE LUNGS.

About twelve months since, the Editors of the "American Journal of the Medical Sciences" published several cases of chronic inflammation of the membrane lining the wind-pipe, and the bronchial ramifications, (communicated by Dr. Drake, of New-York,) in which the respiration of cold air proved very beneficial. In a recent letter to Dr. Chapman, Dr. Drake says, "I have continued this remedy in a considerable number of cases, and obtained effects, if not as constantly beneficial as I could have wished, at least sufficiently so to inspire me with great confidence of its value in various forms of pulmonary disease. The greater part of my cases were chronic catarrhs of *long standing*. Of these a part had been preceded by spitting of blood, (hæmoptysis,) a part presented indications of slight and irregular hectic, with more or less expectoration; and in one, pectoriloquy was distinctly heard in the right lung; but

* *Malt tea* is made by pouring a quart of boiling water upon a gill and a half of ground malt, which is permitted to stand, after two or three good stirrings with a spoon, until cool: it must then be strained off. The tea may be sweetened, or not; or it may have the addition of milk.

† *Treacle posset* is made by mixing a wine-glassful of treacle with a quart of milk, nearly at the boiling point. To be drank when cool.

‡ *Porter* or *ale posset* is made precisely as directed for the treacle posset, except that half a pint of either of these liquors is substituted for the treacle, and it is permitted to stand until a separation takes place.

Dr. Struve says, (Phys. Ed. p. 225) "there are certain means by which the milk of a suckling woman may be increased or diluted. In the first place, I would advise her to drink a glass of cold water every morning, but to adopt no remedies, however speciously recommended by common midwives. He then recommends the porter posset.

none of them ordinarily exhibited much inflammatory excitement, beyond some preternatural frequency of pulse, with slight pain, or sense of soreness, in the chest. In all these cases the cold air was uniformly serviceable, provided the patient did not labour too much in the respiratory effort, or persevere too long in a mode of respiration, which, notwithstanding every precaution, is artificial, and consequently, more or less stimulating, from the undue muscular exertion. On this account I am fearful that the remedy will not be found suited to such cases as are attended with much febrile excitement, unless we could contrive a means of causing the patient to take in and expel the air as he respires it naturally, without attending to the function. In two cases, where the pulse was upwards of 120, with considerable derangement of the respiratory function, I found the remedy fatigued the patients, and aggravated some of their symptoms, (although in one it certainly relieved the cough,) and I was obliged to desist from its further use. Others have failed to derive as much benefit from the remedy as they otherwise would have done, by persisting in its use too long, and repeating it too frequently, especially during the first few days. In general, an hour's application, repeated thrice in the twenty-four hours, I believe will be found preferable to the hazard of enduring fatigue by a more prolonged respiration, and perhaps it is better for the first day or two to limit each trial to half an hour, so as to gradually accustom the patient to the use of the tube. I have employed the remedy in two additional cases of asthma, and in both instances, it relieved the spasmodic breathing in a short time; but as I soon after lost sight of the cases, I cannot speak of its ulterior effect. As to the temperature of the air for respiration, I have found that it may be reduced very low with advantage. In some instances I have reduced it to zero, and even a few degrees below, which patients have preferred to a higher degree; but in general I have contented myself with employing ice simply, which brought the air to 32 or 34, and this seemed to answer very well.

"As the warm weather has advanced, I have been less attentive than formerly in maintaining external stimulation by means of the vest or irritating plasters, and I do not find the remedy less efficacious on that account, or the neglect attended by any ill effect, except, perhaps, that such patients, after respiring very cold air for a considerable time, are more liable to complain of general coldness, amounting almost to a rigor, than when the chest has been kept warmly clad or stimulated. In no instance, however, did any ill consequence arise from this state of things, which I attribute to the blood being diverted from, instead of being accumulated in the diseased organ, as perhaps when a chill arises from exposure of the external surface to cold and moisture.

"I have made a number of experiments, both in pulmonic cases, and on healthy individuals, for the purpose of ascertaining the effects of cool respiration on the pulse. In the great majority of instances, the pulse was rendered both slower and fuller; sometimes only fuller, and now and then somewhat more frequent. One or two hours respiration of air, brought to zero, or even 10 degrees

above, would naturally reduce the pulse from sixteen to twenty-four beats, provided it was not much above a hundred; but I was not successful in making a decided impression on it when it was beyond that point in frequency. Forty-seven was the slowest I was enabled to render it, when it rose up under the finger very slow and sluggishly. In one healthy individual it was reduced in two hours from eighty-eight to fifty-two; in another, from seventy-two to fifty-six; and in a third, from eighty to sixty-four in one hour.

"After all, it will require a much more extended experience than I have yet had, especially during the heats of summer, to form a correct estimate of the value of this remedy, and to ascertain the particular forms of pulmonic disease in which it may be advantageously employed; for, doubtless, it will not be found suited to all indiscriminately. That others may be induced to give the remedy a trial, I have delineated a vertical section of the apparatus I have devised for lowering the temperature of the air. With ice alone, the air in the reservoir is brought to 32°, and remains at 34° after an hour's respiration. Ice mixed with common salt reduces it to zero, or even 3 or 4° below, and which will be found after an hour's respiration, not higher than 10°. Three or four gallons of pounded ice will last about forty-eight hours, and mixed with salt, half that time. I have not found that even two of these refrigerators filled with ice, and placed in an ordinary-sized room, produced any sensible impression on its temperature.

"The Refrigerator, of which the following sketch represents a section, made of zinc, is twenty-two inches high, fourteen inches diameter, and raised one inch from the floor by standards.

Explanation of the representation of the Section of the Refrigerator.

A.A. Compact layer of pulverised charcoal, surrounding the ice-vessel, two inches thick.

B.B. Ice-vessel, of three and a half gallons capacity.

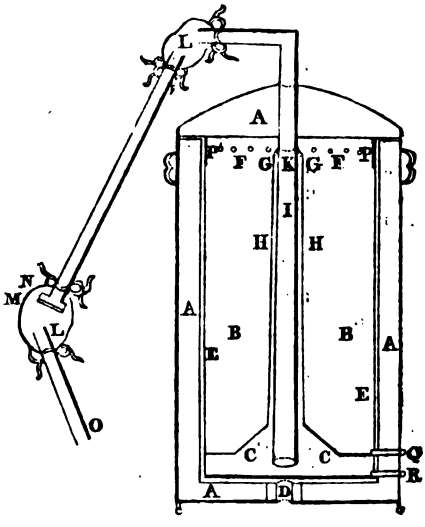
C.C. Reservoir for air, two inches deep at the circumference.

D. A piece of charred cork, placed in the centre of the bottom, and pierced with a hole one inch and a quarter in diameter, for the admission of air.

E.E. A space of a quarter of an inch between the charcoal and ice-vessel, for the passage of air around the ice.

F.F. Perforations around the upper part of the ice-vessel, to let in the air over the ice.

G.G. Perforations in the top of the inner cylinder, for the admission of air.



H.H. A space of three quarters of an inch between the ice-vessel and the tube for the passage of air into the reservoir below.

I.I. A tube, one inch and a third in diameter, extending down, within half an inch of the bottom of the reservoir.

K.K. Where the tube of the lid slides over the tube of the cylinder.
L.L. The ends of the tubes, connected by means of gum elastic bags, to form a joint flexible in every direction. The tubes are one inch in diameter.
M. A valve, to prevent the ingress of air, resembling a puppet valve, except being flat.
N. A wire shoulder, on which the valve plays.
O. End of the tube, flattened to form a mouth-piece.
P.P. Lip of the lid, to render the ice-vessel, as near as possible, air-tight.
Q. Pipe to draw off the water of the melted ice.
R. Pipe to draw off the water that may get into the reservoir.

"I have generally used a tight wooden vessel to enclose the refrigerator, instead of the layer of charcoal, and find it to answer the purpose equally well, and is moreover less expensive, and less liable to injury from use."

In an article on the practice of confining consumptive patients in an atmosphere of a regular temperature, which appears in one of our early numbers, we have particularly noticed the beneficial effects of inhaling cold air by means of a tube communicating with the cold air, either externally, or in an adjoining room. In cases of a chronic inflammation of the internal mucous membrane of the wind-pipe, or even in active inflammation of the membrane, (croup) or of the lungs, the practice recommended by Dr. Drake, after copious bleeding, blistering, and purging, is, in our opinion, very likely to prove very beneficial. If the system be in a plethoric state, it is more likely to act injuriously than otherwise. It also merits a trial in the first stage of typhus fever.

OLD ULCERATIONS OF THE TONGUE, &c.

Dr. Majendie, of Paris, has published two cases of old ulcerations of the tongue, and pharynx, (considered by some eminent surgeons cancerous, and by others as pseudo-syphilitic, and by all as incurable) which yielded to full doses of iodine.

"The first case was that of a female of lymphatic temperament, who had enjoyed good health till the age of thirty, when menstruation became irregular, and epileptiform attacks supervened. After a time ulcers broke out on various parts of the body and limbs: some exfoliations of the tibiæ and bones of the arm also took place. Excrescences were now seen on the pharynx and tongue, and the attendant physician, conceiving the complaint to be syphilitic, notwithstanding the positive denial of the woman, she was put upon a mercurial course. Under this treatment the ulcerations of the body and limbs healed; but those of the tongue increased. In the course of time the patient lost her voice, which was attributed to ulceration of the chordæ vocales. In this deplorable condition. M. Majendie ordered a solution of the hydriodate of potash to be exhibited, and the dose to be gradually increased, till it amounted to thirty-six drops in the day. The good effects were soon conspicuous. The surface of the ulcerations cleaned, and, in fifteen days, those of the tongue were completely healed. In a little more than a month, the other ulcers were also cicatrized.

"Case II.—A female, aged forty-one years, had been in the Hôpital Saint Louis four years previously for large ulcerations on the legs. She had scarcely left the hospital, apparently cured, when she was seized with difficulty of breathing, pain in the region of the larynx, and complete loss of voice. These symptoms continued, and, at the same time, large ulcers broke out on the face and neck, as well as on the tongue. Various modes of treat-

ment had been put in practice, but without much relief, and she entered the Infirmary of the Salpétrière, in March, 1827, three years after the commencement of the facial ulcerations. Her nose was now almost demolished—various fungous ulcers were spread over the face and tongue—deglutition was very difficult, the respiration was impeded—articulation almost annihilated. On the 27th June the patient was put on the use of tincture of iodine, and the dose was gradually increased. The ulcerations at last were entirely healed, and a complete cure is now effected."

LOCKED JAW.

An objection has been made to the warm bath, in cases of this formidable disease, not only on account of the great inconvenience and trouble of conveying the patient to and from it, but because the motion is very apt to increase the spasms. To avoid such inconveniences, Dr. Stedman, an eminent Physician of St. Croix, recommends a warm sand-bath, which he has found not only to possess "all the advantages of a warm-water-bath, but to obviate the only feasible objection that can be brought against it—that of the necessity of moving the patient. I have examined," says Dr. Stedman, "the works of most of the systematic writers on medicine, and of most of the authors on locked jaw, and no where do I find any trace of so simple and effectual a remedy. It is one, however, that has been used for some years here, and has been often employed by my father.

"*The sand-bath* is prepared in the following manner:—A quantity of sand is heated to as high a point as the patient can bear it; this is formed into a bed of from four to six inches thick, and a blanket is put over it, upon which the patient lies; another blanket covers him. A bag of heated sand is also applied to his jaws, and another, if necessary, may be laid upon his body. By these means he is kept day and night in a state of profuse perspiration. Little or no motion is necessary, as the sand can be taken away and renewed in different portions as it grows cold.

SWELLING OF THE ANKLE-JOINT.

Mr. Churchill's scientific work on the efficacy of acupuncturation in deep-seated pains, particularly rheumatic, and in cases of dropsical swellings of the leg, having been translated into several languages on the continent, and reprinted in America, the remedy has become very fashionable with some of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of France, Italy, Germany, and of the United States. The Editor of the American Journal of the Medical Sciences has published the following case of swelling of the ankle-joint, in which acupuncturation, as directed by Mr. Churchill, proved successful under the direction of Dr. John Davis, of Jackson, Tennessee.

"Miss H. aged eighteen, of robust constitution, and corpulent habit, was attacked on the 6th July, 1828, with severe pain in the right foot, near her toes, attended with smart swelling, which extended in a short time to her ankle-joint, and that part became the most severely affected. Her parents resorted to poultices and ointments, and continued their use by alternating and changing them until the 26th of the same month; at which time, despairing of curing her themselves, I was called in, and found her foot considerably swelled, and very painful, but retaining its natural colour. I learned that she was attacked late in the night with severe pain in her right foot, and also in her left hand at the same time, and that they had continued painful, and increased in swelling gradually ever since.

"On examination, I found the third joint of the ring-finger of the hand

affected with whitloe, which I laid open to the bone by an incision, and it soon recovered its natural integrity. The foot presented the appearance already described. I ordered blood to be taken from the arm three times, and a purgative to be used every other day—these were continued for several weeks. Blisters were also applied to the foot, and a discharge kept up by re-applying them. This treatment appeared at first to be productive of some benefit, but it was only temporary. Her foot became intolerably painful, and I was hastily called in on the 22d of August. There was no visible alteration in her foot since my last visit, except that produced by blistering it.

"I began now to despair of effecting a cure by the usual remedies, and resolved on trying acupuncturation; and, making known my views to my patient and her friends, and obtaining their consent, I inserted a large sewing needle into her foot, just below the ankle-joint, on the outside of it, three-fourths of an inch; the needle remained in about forty-five minutes; the pain produced by its entrance continued to increase, accompanied by a tingling sensation. This needle was used as an experiment to let her become satisfied of its utility.

"The most painful and swollen part of her foot was on the top of it, near the toes, to the outside of the ankle-joint; the needle being inserted at the ankle, relieved the pain previously felt there, and the swelling, by the next morning; and the rest of the foot was considerably better. I visited her again on the 25th, and found her highly pleased with the success of the operation; she stated that she had slept soundly each night since the puncture was made, which was the first sound sleep she had enjoyed since her attack. I proposed inserting three needles now, to which she assented. I inserted two in the top, (half an inch in depth,) just where the first pain was felt, about an inch asunder, in an inclining position, to avoid puncturing the tendons, &c.; the third I placed on the outside of the ankle, where the first had been inserted; these remained near an hour, when she said they had become too painful to bear longer; they were then withdrawn. She said the pain produced by them was greatest at the time of abstracting them, and a little afterwards; by next morning she was clear of pain, the tumefaction entirely subsided in a few days, and she resumed her usual domestic business. Thus was the affection removed in a few days, by the insertion of four needles, as recommended by Mr. Churchill, which had been under treatment for seven weeks."

EPILEPSY.

Mr. Wakley has lately published the following case of epilepsy, which was received, on the 5th instant, into St. Thomas's Hospital, under the care of Dr. Roots.—

The patient, a female, (Emma Wayman) was about eighteen years of age. She stated that she first became subject to fits during the period of dentition, but felt nothing of them afterwards, except an occasional rising in the throat, until about fourteen years since, when she had an attack of *typhus fever*, and the fits returned. They again left her, however, and she experienced nothing but an occasional sensation in the throat, which has always continued. About five or six years since, the fits returned, without any apparent cause, and have continued from that time. She says she now has them from once or twice, to six or seven times a-day, and seldom goes more than one day without an attack; is generally aware when a fit is coming on, from additional pain in the head, and the rising in the throat, and can then prevent herself from falling,

by leaning on the table; but occasionally falls down suddenly. The fits continue from half an hour to an hour, and always come on if she does not evacuate her urine as soon as she feels an inclination. Menstruates regularly, but in small quantities; has constant pain over the forehead; pupils not dilated; appetite good; bowels moved every alternate day; pulse 120, soft, and not full; says she often cries on recovering from a fit. Ordered to apply twenty leeches to the temples.

Castor oil, half an ounce.

Oil of turpentine four drachms, to-morrow morning.—Milk diet.

6. Had no return of fits since admission; but says she felt a slight giddiness this morning; pain in the head somewhat relieved since the application of the leeches. Bowels have not been acted on.

7. Had three fits last evening; took a dose of house medicine, which operated several times during the night.

Ammoniated copper, half a grain, three times a-day.

Extract of colocynth, with blue pill, three grains every other night.

Pulse 80, soft and compressible.

9. Has had no return of fits since Friday evening. Ammoniated copper increased to one grain three times a-day.

10. Had no return of fits: headach gone, and quite free from pain. Bowels open, pulse soft.

COLIC FROM LEAD.

The following case of this painful malady, also published by Mr. Wakley, was received, on the same day, into St. Thomas's Hospital, under the care of Dr. Roots.

The patient, (Robert Home) a glass-cutter, aged about 26, was in the habit of using white lead. He had had pain in the abdomen for three weeks past; it became more violent on Sunday last, and was attended by vomiting, which continued up to the time of admission. Abdominal muscles strongly contracted, and the pain so severe, as to cause him to writhe in great agony. Pain somewhat relieved by pressure; has had no stool since Tuesday, and then but one. Pulse 80, full, but soft; tongue white, and loaded. Ordered, a warm bath immediately; and,

Calomel 10 grains, with

Opium, 4 grains, afterwards.

Castor oil, 1 ounce, with

Oil of turpentine, 1 drachm, every four hours, until the bowels are opened. Milk diet.

6. Has experienced but trifling relief, though the bowels have been freely acted on. Warm bath repeated.

Extract of Henbane, 12 grains.

Feels rather better.

7. A blister to the abdomen, and to take diluted sulphuric acid, 15 minims, with half a drachm of tincture of henbane, every six hours.

9. Bowels open, free from pain, and, in every respect, much better.

10. Considerably better; nearly convalescent; complains only of weakness.

This patient was discharged cured.

Dr. Kapeler, an eminent Italian Physician, has been in the habit of prescribing alum for the last thirteen years in cases of colic from lead, at the hospital of St. Antoine, with uniform success. A Dr. Montanceix has lately published several cases in which this article acted most beneficially under the direction of Dr. Kapeler. The

Doctor ordered a table-spoonful of a solution of alum in boiling water or linseed tea (two drachms to half a pint) every hour. A lavement of linseed tea was administered nearly every half hour, and the patients were directed to drink freely of linseed tea or barley water. Dr. Montanceix concludes his communication, with the remark, that alum in colic from lead will entirely supersede every other medicine, if its effects be impartially compared with other modes of cure. To this communication the Editors of the London and Medical Journal have subjoined the following note "Alum has been before much extolled as a remedy in the *Colica pictonum*, (Colic of Painters, from the effects of lead) although it has been of late seldom used in this country. If it should be found, that a relapse never occurs after its employment, it should certainly not be neglected. Dr. Grashuys considered alum as a specific in this disease. Dr. Percival gave it in doses of fifteen grains every four or six hours, and, he declares, with unvarying advantage. The same plan of treatment has also been highly recommended by the German physicians.

Alum being a *supersulphate*, we suspect some of our *chemical* Physicians will attribute its beneficial effect in this disease to the union of the sulphuric acid with the lead they may suppose to be separated from the blood into the intestinal canal, forming an insoluble salt. We are disposed to attribute more to the frequent exhibition of a mucilaginous oily lavement, and frequent libations of linseed tea, than to the alum, in the cases published by Dr. Montanceix.

SAINT VITUS' DANCE.

We have lately met with a case of St. Vitus' Dance which was effectually cured in the course of a fortnight, by rubbing a liniment, composed of the belladonna oil (made by simmering the bruised green leaves of the belladonna in olive oil till they are crisp) and the liquor of ammonia, over the cervical vertebræ, with attention to the stomach and bowels. It is a curious fact, that during the friction the patient could not avoid falling asleep, in which state she continued some hours after the friction was discontinued. This liniment, well rubbed over the course of the spine, is in our opinion very likely to prove beneficial in locked jaw, hooping cough, and spasms of a part which receives its nerves from the spinal cord.

The effects of belladonna, even when externally applied, should be carefully watched, for on a subject of a nervous temperament, it is very apt to disturb the brain, and to act injuriously on the optic and auditory nerves. On elderly people, the belladonna ointment rubbed over the perinæum in cases of irritative affections of the prostate gland, has produced symptoms of impending apoplexy.

INCIPIENT PALSY OF ONE SIDE OF THE BODY.

A French physician (Dr. Beaufils) has published a case of incipient palsy of the right side, in which scarification and abstraction of blood, by means of cupping-glasses along the *whole course of the*

spine, almost immediately removed every symptom of the disease. The patient, a female about twenty-four years of age, was of a nervous and sanguineous temperament. When the state of the brain does not indicate considerable congestion of its blood-vessels, and the system is plethoric, this practice, with an active aperient, is likely to prove very beneficial.

DEBILITY OF THE DIGESTIVE ORGANS, &c.

Since we noticed the tonic powers of the round-leaf Cornel, Mr. Highley has published a practical dissertation, by Dr. Robinson, on its chemical and therapeutic properties, with directions for its exhibition in cases of indigestion from direct and indirect debility of the digestive organs; and in cases of the climacteric disease, or breaking up of the system, either from advanced age, or the abuse of vinous or spirituous liquors, or indulgence in savoury dishes and other excesses which undermine the constitution. The author, after giving a description of the round-leaf cornel, &c. and noticing the cases of debility, local and general, in which it has been successfully administered by Dr. Ives, Dr. Monson and himself, after the Peruvian bark, the sulphate of quinine, and other tonic medicines had totally failed; and the analysis of it, by Mr. Carpenter, a scientific chemist, of St. Croix; with several formulæ for its exhibition, minutely describes the cases of debility, local and general, in which he has found it to succeed. In this part we must do him the justice to say, he has not followed the example of some English authors, or rather manufacturers of books, on indigestion and diet of the present day, by employing the scissors more than the pen, or pilfering the products of the brains of others, rather than work their own brains. His remarks and authorities clearly prove that he is a physician of considerable experience, and one of the class which is, unfortunately at the present time, very limited, capable of observation and reflection, and not to be misled in drawing his inferences by the silly doctrines of biliary derangements, inflammation or ulceration of the mucous membrane of the stomach, &c. &c.

After concluding the natural history and chemical and therapeutical account of the round-leaf cornel, the Doctor observes—

"From the foregoing account of the medicinal properties of the *round-leaf Cornel*, it will appear, that it is a most valuable tonic and stomachic medicine. By the term *tonic* I mean a medicine which increases the *motific* powers of the body, or in other words, brings into action the *muscular* powers. Some medical men suppose that a tonic medicine strengthens the system, *only* by invigorating the stomach so as to enable it to perform its important office in the animal economy, viz. the process termed digestion, and that the blood being in consequence supplied with healthy chyle, the whole body will be properly nourished; while others imagine that the peculiar essential quality of a tonic medicine almost immediately enters the circulation, and is rapidly diffused throughout the muscular system; and others fancy the tonic effect on the stomach is, by sympathy, communicated to the arterial and muscular systems; and from the almost immediately invigorating influence of a tonic medicine taken into the stomach, in augmenting the motific or muscular powers of the body, I am disposed to attribute the *general* effects of tonic medicines, not entirely to their operation on the stomach, but much to the diffusion of the tonic principle as well as to sympathy. By the term *stomachic*,

I mean a medicine which improves the condition of the stomach, so as to put it into a state to perform its functions, or, as generally considered, a remedy for indigestion. Indigestion is a complaint, from the consequences of which a great majority of the inhabitants of the United States and of England more or less suffer; indeed, very few are those who are entirely free from some of its products or consequences,—as flatulence, acidity, irregular bowels, morbid urine, head-ache, &c. Indigestion, or imperfect digestion, it is obvious, is not a *primary* malady, but the consequence of some disordered condition of the stomach, and the disorder may again originate in the stomach, or be sympathetic of some disorder or disease in a part of the digestive apparatus,—as the liver, duodenum, &c.—or of some part of the body with which the stomach may directly or indirectly sympathize,—as the brain, the rectum, bladder, uterus, &c. The primary disorder of the stomach may be simple, *i. e.* without any structural mischief or disorganization; or it may be the consequence of it. In the former case it is termed *disorder*, in which the mucous membrane, nerves, glands, or muscular fibres, are in a state of preternatural irritation or excitement; and the latter is termed *disease*, a distinction which, in a *practical* point of view, is of great importance; for when the *disorder* is the consequence of diseased structure, it must appear obvious that medicines should be employed, not only to correct the disorder, but a plan of treatment steadily pursued to remove the disease, or structural mischief which produces it. When indigestion is the consequence of an increased excitement, or morbid sensibility of the nerves of the stomach, cooling medicine,—as nitre, carbonate of soda, the saline mixture in a state of effervescence, mild sedatives, and salient aperients, which are the opposite to the class of tonics, are the proper stomachics; and in such cases of morbid excitement or sensibility, a *direct* tonic, although it sometimes affords immediate relief, will ultimately prove very injurious, by occasioning structural mischief, and when the structure has undergone a change, by hastening its progress. When the derangement of the stomach is sympathetic of disorder, simple or attendant on diseased structure, or of inflammatory action either of the liver or a more remote part, it is obvious the attention of the practitioner should be directed to the *primary* affection; but even in such case, equal attention must be paid to the condition of the stomach and intestinal canal, because the disorder of the stomach re-acts on the primary affection, and by disturbing the brain and nervous system, and increasing arterial action, it produces a state of the whole system favouring the progress of local disorganization. I have introduced these remarks to enable my readers to make a proper distinction between the complaint termed indigestion, arising from *increased* excitement of the nerves, &c. of the stomach, the consequences of which are unhealthy secretion of the gastric juice, and the fermentation of its contents from increased temperature, the products of which are acidity, flatulence, &c. &c. in which, whether the disorder be primary or sympathetic, simple, or complicated with diseased structure, a direct *tonic* medicine would prove injurious. The cases of indigestion from debility, like the variety from increased excitement, or morbid sensibility, may originate in the stomach, or be the consequence of some debilitating disease, situated in a contiguous or remote part, or of whatever may diminish the natural energy of a vital organ —as distension of the venous sinuses of the brain, or the blood-vessels of the lungs, which, in elderly people, are common consequences of debility of the heart, or ossifications of the large arteries of the chest, &c. In such cases of debility a *tonic* medicine is absolutely necessary to support the vital powers, and to promote digestion, so as to supply the blood with healthy chyle, in order to enable that power termed *nature* to repair the dilapidations

and strengthen the stamina. In such cases of debility it is scarcely necessary to observe, the cooling or sedative stomachics would hasten the patient to his long home. I have made these observations to point out the distinction that ought to be made between a tonic and a stomachic, which are very generally considered synonymous, and to impress on the minds of my readers the importance of ascertaining the real state of the stomach, in order to adopt a proper mode of treatment, which, at a time it is become fashionable to attribute *every case* of indigestion either to inflammation or ulceration of the mucous membrane of the stomach or intestines, (a theory to which many a debilitated subject has been sacrificed,) is particularly necessary. In the United States, as well as in England, *primary* debility of the stomach is a common consequence of long-continued excitement from the abuse of vinous and spirituous liquors, an indulgence in high-seasoned dishes, and in certain abuses which cannot with propriety be enumerated in a work that is likely to fall into the hands of unprofessional readers. Imperfect digestion, or a disinclination to take solid food, is frequently the first symptom of the climacteric period of life, termed breaking up of the constitution. In subjects born of healthy parents, and without any predisposition to disease, and who have lived regularly, this period rarely commences before the age of sixty-eight, and sometimes not till eighty or ninety; but in those who have led dissipated lives, or born weakly, or whose parents were unhealthy, (having been subject to gout or asthma, or who were scrofulous or consumptive) it often takes place during the period of manhood. In such cases, it must appear obvious, that it is of importance to invigorate the stomach by a tonic medicine; for however particular a person may be in selecting a nutritious food, unless it be properly digested, so as to produce good chyle, it will fail to nourish the body."

Dr. Robinson then proceeds to notice the auxiliaries which are necessary in different diseases of debility to expedite the restorative effects of the round-leaf cornel; and this part, which occupies ten pages, abounds with valuable observations clearly derived from an extensive practice.

The author has added some pithy and judicious instructions respecting the selection of articles of diet for debilitated subjects, which, with a short chapter on different wines, spirits, &c. are very judicious; and we have no hesitation in asserting, that the reader will derive more useful information from these short chapters than from the voluminous works of Dr. Paris and others. The author concludes his pamphlet with an account of the lobelia inflata, an herb which has lately been highly extolled by some eminent physicians of the United States, as a remedy for spasmodic asthma, with directions for its use. This article we have noticed in our 109th and 110th Numbers, Vol. X. It has since been successfully prescribed in cases of asthma and other spasmodic affections, by Dr. Andrew, of Glasgow, and by him recommended to the attention of English practitioners, in the Glasgow Medical Journal. Some American practitioners are of opinion that the United States do not yield a plant of more powerful and unequivocal operation on the human body than the *lobelia inflata*.

From such a practical work as that before us, which is extended only to a few pages, our non-medical readers will gain more valuable information than from the contemptible compilations and plagiarisms, entitled, "Sure Methods of preserving Health, and Modern Domestic Medicine," by a Dr. Graham; or the silly work on Diet, by

Dr. Paris; who has the modesty to represent himself to be one of the class that possesses all the collateral lights of natural philosophy!!!

We have given the alkaline extract and the tincture of the round-leafed cornel a trial in several cases of debility; and we are satisfied that in all it succeeded more effectually and speedily in restoring the patients to health than any tonic, with which we are acquainted; and we are also satisfied that it sits more pleasantly on the stomach than the Peruvian bark or the cascarilla. In cases of indigestion in elderly people, the tincture, taken in the dose of three tea-spoonsful, speedily invigorates the stomach, produces a relish for food, and evidently promotes digestion.

THERAPEUTICS.

ACETATE OF MORPHINE.

This article, slightly sprinkled over a blistered surface, has been found, according to the reports of the Editors of some foreign philosophical journals, very beneficial in cases of locked jaw, and other spasmodic diseases. In one case of chronic spasms of the muscles of the back, it is said one application completely succeeded in relaxing the muscles. In a case of considerable nervous excitement of the brain, attended with an absence of sleep for four days, which lately occurred in London, fifteen drops of the solution of acetate of morphine succeeded in producing sleep, after laudanum and the other preparations of opium had evidently increased the excitement. The following embrocation of acetate of morphine, &c. rubbed along the course of the spine, for a few minutes twice a-day, it is said speedily cures the hooping-cough.

Take of Solution of Acetate of Morphine, four drachms;
Spirit of Wine, one ounce and a half;
Camphor, one drachm;
Pure Pyroligneous Acid, half an ounce.—Mix.

NAPTHA LINIMENT.

This liniment, noticed in our last number, under the head of Chilblains and Rheumatism, has been found very beneficial in cases of chilblains and rheumatism; and we have no doubt, from our knowledge of its efficacy, that it will, as a remedy for the complaints for which it is recommended, supersede all other opodeldocs and liniments.

LONDON PHARMACOPŒIA.

The College of Physicians being of opinion that the late "important discoveries in medicine," particularly in the department of Chemistry, "impose on them the labour of revising their Pharmacopœia, and of publishing a corrected and enlarged edition," have assigned this simple task (to the College no doubt a labour) to a Committee selected from their body. We would recommend the Committee to call to their assistance a few of the leading general practitioners and chemists of London, and not to degrade the whole profession of the country in the opinion of foreigners by

unchemical formulæ. We also advise them to introduce full directions for making all the new chemical articles, as sulphate of quinine, prussic acid, tincture of iodine, solution of acetate of morphine, &c. &c., that they may be kept by all compounders of prescriptions throughout England of the same strength. For want of such regulation, many serious accidents are almost daily occurring, particularly from prussic acid, the strength of which varies so much, that twenty drops of the article kept by one chemist will have no sensible effect, while one drop of that made by another chemist is so powerful as to be capable of destroying life. We would advise them likewise to substitute drops for minims; for it is impossible, in our opinion, to measure a few minims; for if ten be ordered, even of a thin fluid, five will adhere to the measure; and if it be thick, as oil of cloves, oil of pimento, &c., the whole will adhere. Apothecaries, in compounding prescriptions, generally drop an article ordered in minims instead of measuring it; and some for each minim only use one drop, others one and a half, and others two. We would also advise them to follow the example of the American College, of publishing it in the English language. Modern medicine does not require a cloak, and if the Pharmacopœia were published in English, the apothecaries would not be misled by incorrect translations. Whatever relates to the health of man, should be entirely free from mystery, and intelligible to the public. All medical mystery is contemptible quackery. Surely a set of men who boast of being illuminated by the collateral lights of natural philosophy cannot be afraid to "let their lights shine before men," or require the cloak of a language, of the genius, idioms, and pronunciation of which, they themselves are ignorant. Much serious mischief has been occasioned by increasing the strength of those articles in common use. They should consider that prescriptions taken from works published before the altered Pharmacopœia, are frequently sent to chemists to be compounded: some articles being double the strength, as the *dilute sulphuric acid*, we have known very serious affections of the stomach from its exhibition, which in a weak subject may terminate life. We mentioned this evil arising from altering the strength of the dilute sulphuric acid to a *fellow* of the College, who in reply observed, with a smile, "Well, then, instead of using *old* prescriptions, they must apply for *new* ones!" By the whimsical alterations in the composition of articles, as the omission of oil of aniseeds in compound tincture of camphor, and the substitution of dilute alcohol for wine in the liquor of tartarized antimony; many respectable chemists have got into great disgrace; for those acquainted with paregoric will not be satisfied with the former, because it has not the smell or the taste of the aniseed, whilst others are dissatisfied with the latter, as antimonial wine, on account of its colour. For the sake of consistency, we advise them to omit their formulæ for ointments, cerates, and plasters; for no surgeon attends to them, and being ignorant of surgery, they are out of their element in giving such directions. Again, for the sake of the public, and the reputation of the medical profession of their country, we advise them to

resign "their labour" of correcting their Pharmacopœia to a set of general practitioners who are competent to the office. It is really very inconsistent at least, if not ridiculous, for a set of men, who do not pretend to be acquainted with pharmacy or surgery, and who denominate those physicians who commenced their education in pharmacy and surgery irregular men, and refuse to grant a licence to a physician, so long as he is a member of the College of Surgeons, to attempt to write a pharmacopœia. The fact is, the work, contemptible as it may be, will be made a law by his Majesty's sanction, and the profits arising from the sale amount to a *few thousand pounds!*

As to the latin language, the majority of the College well know that if they were to write their prescriptions in English, their "bubble would soon break," for few patients of common sense would place any confidence in their prescriptions, and few of them would like to be interrogated as to their modus operandi. We have now a prescription written by a learned Fellow before us, in which the leaves of peppermint are directed to be infused in *boiling* peppermint water. So ignorant is this Fellow of chemistry as to suppose that the essential oil of the peppermint water, in which its virtues entirely reside, will not be dissipated by boiling!!! In another, three drachms of Epsom salt are directed to be dissolved in half a pint of water, with a drachm of compound tincture of cardamoms to colour it! These prescriptions in Latin have a fine imposing effect on the ignorant, and what is of the first importance, entitle the prescriber to a fee. If this be not quackery of the most contemptible kind, what is it? Dr. Lambe shall answer this question in our next number.

GERMAN LEOPARD'S BANE.—*(Arnica Montana.)*

The infusion of the flowers of the German leopard's bane, made by infusing half an ounce of the flowers in a quart of boiling water in a close vessel for two hours, is much employed at the hospitals of Paris, and prescribed by the most eminent physicians of France, Germany, and Italy, in the dose of a wine-glassful, two or three times a-day, in cases of local palsy and of debility of the brain, &c. By Bergius this plant is represented to be emetic, diuretic, sudorific, and an attenuant of the blood. The celebrated Dr. Colne, of Vienna, highly extols it as a febrifuge. Dr. Bartholomew Parr says that the German leopard's bane has not met with that attention from the medical professors of this country to which the high estimation in which it is held by the most eminent physicians of Germany, France, and Italy entitles it. As a nervous tonic it is certainly much inferior to the seeds of the Hibiscus Abelmoschus (musk-seeds). Being an expectorant, the oxymel or tincture of the flowers, or of the root, is very likely to prove beneficial in cases of spasmodic asthma.

GALVANISM.

Within the last year, galvanism has been very successfully employed by several eminent physicians of North America, as recommended by our scientific countryman, M. La Beaume, Esq., in cases of indigestion arising from sluggishness of the liver and intestinal canal, after the blue pill system of Mr. Abernethy had entirely failed.

Dr. Robertson, an American physician of great eminence, states, that he has found the galvanic fluid conducted through the region of the liver and the ganglions of the abdomen, and along the spinal cord, a most excellent auxiliary to tonic medicines in all cases of general debility.

We learn from various quarters, that M. La Beaume's mode of applying galvanism has been attended with the most beneficial results in a variety of chronic diseases, and that many remarkable cures have been effected in asthma, tic douloureux, nervous debility, atrophy, encysted dropsy, &c. The particulars of which cases shall be given in an early Number.

BALSAM COPAIBA.

Dr. Epps, Lecturer on Chemistry, &c. at the Western Hospital, has published the following formula for exhibiting the balsam copaiba, the advantage of which is, rendering it more agreeable to the palate and stomach:—

Take of Balsam Copaiba,
Gum Arabic, of each two drachms;
White Sugar, three drachms;
Liquor of Potass, one drachm and a half;
Spirit of Nutmegs, three drachms;
Pure Water, six ounces.

Rub the balsam, with the gum arabic, sugar, and liquor of potass, with two drachms of water, in a mortar; and, when well blended, add the water with the spirit gradually. From two to three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a-day. Dr. Epps states, that the efficacy of the balsam is increased by the combination. If fresh rose water be substituted for pure water, and the syrup of orange flowers be added, the mixture will be more pleasant to the palate.

EMETIC TARTAR OINTMENT.

We have lately met with a case of hooping-cough, attended with acute pain in the left side, in which this ointment, applied in the usual manner over the seat of pain, produced considerable nausea, with a distressing sensation of fainting and general prostration of strength, which in a few hours was followed by pain in the intestines, and diarrhœa. The nausea did not occur till after the fourth application, when the skin was much inflamed, and the eruption had commenced. During the disorder of the stomach and intestines, the pain in the side ceased, and the cough was less frequent and considerably less violent. Notwithstanding the use of the cretaceous mixture with an anodyne, (after the exhibition of a small dose of rhubarb and calomel,) and the saline mixture in a state of effervescence, the nausea and diarrhœa continued upwards of two days. A blister over the stomach, and an anodyne lavement, (starch and opium) administered twice a day, evidently produced a very beneficial effect.

TISANE.

The common tisane of the hospitals of Paris is made by boiling for a few minutes an ounce of the root of dog-grass and a drachm of liquorice in a quart of water. In febrile affections this is the common beverage; and in all cases, chronic as well as acute, patients are directed to drink freely of it, as a purifier of the blood. We have been told by a physician, who has attended the practice of the first

hospital in Paris (Hôtel-Dieu), that it is common for a patient to drink two gallons of this wonderfully purifying tisane in the course of a day!!! Some physicians of Paris condemn the abstraction of blood, even in inflammation of the lungs, till the blood has been purified by this tisane!!

BUCHU LEAVES, *(Diosma crenata.)*

Since we introduced the buchu leaves into practice as a remedy for allaying morbid irritation in the bladder, prostate gland and urethra, different species of the genus *diosma* have been sent to this country by the merchants of the Cape, who were ignorant of the species we had employed. An elderly gentleman, who had read our publication on the buchu leaves, procured some of the leaves from his chemist, the infusion of which he took for some weeks, without deriving any advantage from it. Finding his case a proper one for the remedy, we advised him to procure the tincture and the leaves from the Medical Hall, in Piccadilly. When he called on us a second time, about a week after the first visit, he told us that the remedy had acted as a charm, and that he was then entirely free from any irritation in the bladder or urethra. One surgeon whom he had consulted told him that his prostate gland was much diseased.

WATER TREFOIL, *(Menyanthes trifoliata.)*

M. Vosy, in a late communication to the Medico-botanical Society of London, states that this plant is used in Germany in lieu of hops, in making malt liquor: and that it is employed in Sweden for making porter. For this information the society voted M. Vosy their silver medal. The leaves are directed to be collected in Spring, and to be dried in the shade. This plant has, for many years, been employed in many countries of Europe, as a substitute for hops in the preparation of malt liquor; but not containing an essential oil, it does not answer so well as the hop in preserving the liquor in a vinous or sound state. It is more intensely bitter than the hop, but on account of being free from an aromatic principle with which the hop abounds, it is less wholesome.

QUACKERY.

THE BALSAM of RAKASIRI, by THE *Doctors C. and J. Jordan, Physicians to the West London Medical Establishment!!!*—A few months since, a nervous young man, whose mind had been much alarmed by reading the terrific account given by Doctor Solomon, and others, of the *tabes dorsalis*, and fancying he had some symptoms of the malady, was induced by the puffing advertisement of *the Doctors* C. and J. Jordan, to give their infallible restorative, the *Balsam Rakasiri*, a trial. He accordingly consulted the *learned* doctors, who confirmed his suspicions, and, with apparent feelings of commiseration, complimented him on his good sense in applying to them *in time*. This, said one of them emphatically, "is a *blessed day* for you. Luckily your complaint is not gone too far, the Balsam will cure you; Oh yes, it will save you many days of misery: you must take a five guinea case, and that will cure you." The young man cheerfully advanced the money, and the doctor as cheerfully handed the remedy, and with a countenance expressive of the tenderest sympathy for his affliction, assured him, that he felt *great interest* in his case. The unsuspecting youth, after having taken the stock of the infallible restorative, had another consultation with the learned sympathising doctors; the result of which was, the absolute necessity of continuing the *Balsam* of Rakasiri! The doctors again congratulated him, the progress of the undermining malady was clearly checked. The youth being persuaded to persevere, another advance of five pounds was made, and the sympathising doctors furnished him with another supply. The thoughtless youth, after several consultations with his learned and sympathising friends, the doctors, and taking as many

five guinea cases without deriving the smallest benefit from it, dared to tell them that he was then much worse than he was when he first applied to them, and expressed a hope, as the Balsam had failed to produce the effect they had led him to expect, they would return the money he had paid them. His sympathising friends expressed their astonishment at such an unreasonable wish. "Return the money! why, my dear friend, you have had your money's worth!! your spinal marrow is renovated, blessed day for you was that, in which you applied to us!"—The young man was inflexible; the wonderfully healing balsam had had the effect of opening his eyes, and his mind being not a little enraged, he told them, that if they did not *voluntarily* return the money, he would compel them to do it. "Pshaw!" said the Doctor, "expose yourself; you have a *certain* disease, and I will prove in a court of justice, that I have treated you most skilfully." This base attack on his moral character excited the indignation of the young man, and after some reflection, he acquainted a magistrate at the Police Office, in Great Marlborough-street, with the imposition that had been practised on him by THE *Doctors* J. and C. Jordan.

Sir George Farrant, after listening to his narrative, politely invited *the* Doctors to a consultation at the office, by issuing a warrant. Of the *honour* the worthy magistrate had done them, they were so fully sensible, that they lost no time in attending to it. After the usual ceremony of introduction, &c. &c., the conscientious Doctors were soon convinced that their best policy was to return all the money they had, by their false representations and promises, extorted from the youth. Some Editors of the Morning Papers having been so unceremonious as to publish an account of the young man's charge against the learned Doctors, and the injurious effect of their invaluable Balsam, their feelings were so severely wounded, that they hastened to the offices of the Evening and the Sunday Papers, to request that they would not copy the *erroneous* statements. They complained of having been cruelly ill-treated, and declared, that if they did not regard the character of the young man who was afflicted with a *certain* disease, they would have carried the case into a *Court of Justice!!* Here ended this most disgraceful affair!—Now for the case of Miss May! This young woman, having a slight chronic affection of the chest, attended with Cough and difficulty of breathing, was also induced, by the public advertisements of THE *Doctors* C. and J. Jordan, to give the "celebrated Balsam of Rakasiri" a trial. She unadvisedly consulted the Doctors, who, with countenances fully expressive of the *great interest* they felt in her case, observed, "this is a blessed day for you—don't despair, we will *cure* you for five pounds. Miss May having only one sovereign in her pocket, said she could not take more than one bottle; but the sympathising Doctors assuring her that it would be greatly to her benefit to advance five sovereigns, she borrowed four sovereigns of a sister. The Doctors again congratulated her on her good fortune in applying to them, cheerfully took the money, and with a kind of compound smile, expressive of sympathy and satisfaction, gave her the case of the Balsam, observing, This will certainly cure you. Having great faith in the all-healing powers of the Balsam, she took it regularly, and on her stomach it had a cordial effect, similar to that of gin: but her malady was rather aggravated by it than otherwise. The stock being exhausted, she again applied to the learned and sympathising Doctors, who assured her that her complaint, and not the Balsam, was in fault! Another supply of 4*l.* 19*s.* would effectually subdue the malady, which had evidently taken great hold of *her* lungs.—Miss May willingly advanced the money.—The second supply having increased the complaint, she again applied to the Doctors, who were *of course* more competent than herself to say whether it had proved beneficial, or otherwise. They soon discovered evidence, decisive of the beneficial effects of the Balsam; it was then beginning to act on the roots of the disease, and another supply would complete the cure.

The credulous Miss May was so prepossessed in their favour by the warm interest the learned Doctors took in her case, and their apparent anxiety to cure her, that she took another supply at the moderate price of 4*l.* 19*s.*!! Finding that her complaint was clearly aggravated by the wonderful restorative balsam, she now resolved not to be any longer duped by their pretended sympathy and false promises; and the balsam having failed to effect the promised cure, she dared to intimate that she expected they would return the money she had paid them. The countenances of the Doctors, instead of sympathy, suddenly expressed astonishment. Their treatment had been most judicious. She had had her "money's worth." Miss May gently intimated that she would follow the example of the young man from whom they had extorted a consider-

able sum under false promises. "Oh," observed the Doctor with an air of indifference, "I am glad you have mentioned that *infamous* business. Yes, out of tender regard for his character, we returned the money. Had we gone into a court of justice, the nature of his disease must have come out: and if you make any fuss about the paltry sums you have paid us for consultations and the cases of the Balsam of Rakasiri, *your disease* shall be published to the world." This vile threat excited the honest indignation of Miss May; and finding that her persuasive powers and threats were not likely to succeed in bringing the Doctors to a sense of rectitude, she resolved to try the effect of a "Lawyer's Letter." She accordingly went to Mr. Cox, who lost no time in firing a shot. The learned Doctors were not to be frightened: and a second shot they also disregarded. Miss May, with her attorney, Mr. Cox, waited on Sir George Farrant, at the Police Office, in Great Marlborough-street, who, after hearing the complaint, advised Mr. Cox to indict the learned Doctors for a fraud at the Middlesex Sessions, which Mr. Cox promised to do. And here, for the present rests this most infamous imposition.

In our third volume, p. 1061, we have given an analysis of this pretended Balsam of Rakasira, and also of *the Doctors'* treatise on its wonderful restorative virtues. About a hundred years since, an article was imported from the East Indies under the name of Balsam of Rakasira: but those who gave it a trial, finding it very inferior to balsam of tolu, it soon fell into disuse; and instead of being the produce of one tree, it was afterwards found to be a composition. The article so artfully and industriously puffed off by THE *Doctors* C. & J. Jordan, *Physicians* to the West London Medical Establishment, (an institution which exists only by name in the Doctors' learned dissertation,) does not contain a particle of the Balsam of Rakasira: it is in fact, like the celebrated Balm of Gilead, an ardent spirit disguised by an essential oil; and in one half of the diseases, for the cure of which it is so highly extolled as an infallible specific, it is absolutely a poison. In one of our early numbers, we published a case of incipient consumption, in which this pretended Balsam of Rakasira aggravated the sufferings of the patient, (a young woman about seventeen years of age,) and we have no hesitation in asserting, from our knowledge of the case, that this powerful spirit accelerated the progress of the disease in the lungs to an incurable stage. The only difference between such a trade and that of Burke is, the one receives his pay *before* the sacrifice of life, and the other after it: for, as Sterne observes, "in the mind of every honest man, the wretch who tampers with the life of a fellow-creature for the sake of lucre, and hurries him to the grave by his nostrum, is guilty of murder in its true sense." The name of the nostrum being fictitious, and, like those given to the nostrums termed Balsam of Horehound, Balsam of Honey, and more than three parts of the nostrums sold in this country, which do not contain a particle of the articles of which they bear the name, although they assert they contain their medicinal virtues in a state of concentration, is an imposition. But if a magistrate should call on these said *Doctors* to produce their diplomas, they would find that they are as much entitled to the denomination of Medical Doctors, or Physicians, as their disguised ardent spirit is to that of the Balsam of Rakasiri, a more applicable name for which, if a *balsam* it must be, would be *Balsam Rascali.* That so infamous a traffic should be publicly carried on in this country with impunity is a matter of great surprise to all the learned medical societies on the continent. One of the duties, and in our opinion the most important to the public, imposed on the College of Physicians by their charter, is the suppression of quackery. But the minds of the members have been so occupied in making by-laws, with the view of monopolizing the fee trade, that they have allowed the infamouse trade to flourish. They, in fact, think of nothing else but their own benefit; and instead of exercising the power given to them for the benefit of the public, they turn it only to their own aggrandizement. Their by-laws and their general conduct towards practitioners that do not belong to their body, evince a beastly spirit of avarice.

We are told that a society will soon be formed, for the purpose of suppressing the infamous trades of regular and irregular quackery; and that their first act will be to call on the College *legally* to show cause why they should not be prosecuted *criminally* for the total neglect of one of the most important duties to the public required of them by their charter.

We sincerely hope that those who have been duped by the fale promises of Mr. Long St. John Long, some of whom have experienced the *consumptive* effects of his practice, to the amount of nearly two hundred pounds, will follow the example of Miss May, to whose spirited conduct the thanks of the public are due.

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PRACTICAL MEDICINE.

THIRD CASE OF ST. VITUS'S DANCE.

(Communicated by a Medical Friend to Dr. Harrison, and by him to the Gazette of Health.)

IT was on the second of January, 1815, that I was first spoken to for this young lady, whose case I now send to you. She was then thirteen years old. And here I may mention, that it was not till more than three years afterwards that the menses first appeared; and then without any particular circumstance. The symptoms of chorea had been noticed for a fortnight; but they were so slight, that, though I was attending her sister at the time, it had not been thought necessary to mention them to me. Indeed they were still comparatively slight, affecting chiefly the left arm. It appeared, too, she had had very desultory motions in both arms some years before, which had ended in nothing serious. She was at this time getting one of the lower molares, which I was led to remark because the late Dr. Monro used to reckon the getting of the second set of teeth among the exciting causes of chorea. In the present instance, however, I was not able to trace the connexion.

At first I was disposed to trust to *purgatives* alone, from the *free* exhibition of which in chorea, as well as in several other spasmodic affections, I had repeatedly witnessed the best effects. But, in the present case, though it was found necessary to be giving *moderate* doses almost daily, and though their operation was frequently followed by a marked remission, yet I must add, that in no stage could I perceive either indication or encouragement to push them to any thing like the extent which Dr. Hamilton recommends, and which I had myself found so beneficial on former occasions.

In fact, it soon became evident that the cause was *deeper* seated, and the progress was rapid. So early as the 8th, mention is made of the *conjunctiva of both eyes*, but especially the left, being suffused with some "puriform secretion, but no inflammation or soreness, and the agitations very great, affecting the whole frame."

In this stage, recourse was had to leeches several times; once she was bled to six ounces, and all with good effect. But the season when it would have appeared justifiable to be taking blood in any mode, soon passed away; and, for about three weeks, the chief dependence was on a succession of blisters, applied, for the most part, to the head and neck; but once or twice to the arms and legs; though certainly with less apparent benefit in the two latter situations.

Altogether this sort of practice was repeatedly followed by a striking *temporary* effect: For instance, on the 10th, "the agitations were excessive, and *she could not speak*." But, after leeches, and a purge, and a blister to the head, she had a better night, and could speak, and remained "considerably better" all the next day.

Nevertheless, it was evident that the disease was fast gaining ground. On the 14th, it required two persons to "prevent her being

tossed out of bed in the night;" and, from this time, it became necessary to have her constantly secured by straps. Still, it is added, that the "pupils contracted and dilated naturally." But, on the 16th, a worse night than ever, with moaning and grinding of teeth; pupils considerably dilated, but can "tell the hour by my watch, though she can hardly articulate."

At this period, for about a week, it seemed as if the symptoms were kept in check, or even giving way: "she was more composed, and could speak better;" but in reality nothing was gained.

24th. Asleep now; skin very cold, but dry; has *complained* of coldness, and has vomited; had two stools in the night, without being conscious of them, but was quite sensible before falling asleep. Wine whey was ordered; the warmth was restored without difficulty; and, for a few days, she was much as usual again, only it seemed as if the vital powers were declining, while the disease was more and more firmly fixed.

27th. "Grinds her teeth very much; seldom attempts to speak."

28th. "Very fretful; does not give notice when she passes her urine."

29th. "Agitations stronger and more uninterrupted; does not give notice of either stools or urine, and can scarcely express any word; very little sleep; still takes food well."

30th. "Very restless night, with loud moaning; it is difficult to give her food, her tongue being drawn to the top of her mouth; appetite seems to be good."

N. B. The silver spoon used in feeding her was literally full of the impressions of her teeth.

Indeed, to such a wretched condition was the poor sufferer now reduced—with every muscle of the face and limbs in a state of almost constant catching, and with eyes that seemed nearly to have lost all animation; very much emaciated, and necessarily strapped down to a couch, yet still apparently in some degree sensible of her own misery, that, I believe, there was not one of those about her, who would not have been thankful to see her released.

But a crisis was at hand, such as none of us durst have looked for.

31st. "Spoke intelligibly in the night, desiring to be moved into bed, which was done; slept two hours, and was able to take a basin of boiled milk and bread this morning. Much *inflammation on the sacrum*, with excoriation." This last symptom had been observed for some days: but it was regarded and treated simply as a consequence of the violent agitations, and of her having lately passed all her evacuations under her. I expected it would end in sphacelus, if she were not carried off by the original affection; nor could I for the next two days see any encouragement to hope otherwise.

February 1st. "More feeble; a very bad night; takes but little food; belly open."

N. B. This is the first time that the *appetite* had failed.

2d. "About two hours' sleep, very restless at other times; large stools, no way remarkable; blister on head open." It was now that I prescribed half-grain doses of opium, the effect of which *then* appeared to be particularly beneficial; and, as they *happened to be timed*, probably it was so. It will be seen, that, after the first dose, the patient *slept eight hours*; but then the disposition to sleep had mani-

fested itself before. Again, the report of the 31st must not be overlooked. And the events of the following days lead me to ascribe much more to nature, and less to any sort of *means*, than I did at the time. However, the following extract from my notes must speak for themselves.

3rd. "Began to doze yesterday evening about six, and slept till eight; took the *first* dose of opium on awaking, and slept till four, but with considerable uneasiness till between two and three; took a second dose at four, lay restless till six, and then slept till eight, but rather uneasily; *speaks better* this morning, and takes food well. On pressing the inflamed part, *pus* came from one of the ulcerated spots in considerable quantity. Pergat."

4th. "Did not sleep so well, but speaks with less effort, and is lying nearly free from agitation at present."

5th. "Much better; asleep at present in bed, without any sort of restraint; catchings nearly gone from face, was able to *sit with support for an hour* to-day; very copious discharge from abscess on sacrum."

N.B. The quantity of opium for the two last nights is not stated; probably it was two half-grains each night.

6th. "A very good night, from a single half-grain; is at present supported, and listening attentively to her sister who reads to her."

7th. "Not so good a night, took two doses; matter appears to come from a great depth."

10th. "No sleep till three, took three doses; agitations and catchings have not been so well *since the discharge was less.*"

11th. "Slept till midnight without opium, then took a grain, and slept till morning; speaks much better, and in connected sentences; was able to work a sum in compound addition yesterday, her sister setting down the figures; tumour on sacrum much subsided; discharge appears to come from considerable depth."

12th. "Is lying on the bed quietly, without being tied; speaks whole sentences almost as well as ever."

14th. "Speaks still better, *but cannot put her tongue out.*"

17th. "A good night, no opium for two nights."

20th. "Can now nearly put her tongue out, quite free from catchings, and can raise her hand to her head."

22d. "Is now so tranquil, that she can be left alone in the room, on the couch, without being tied; gaining flesh apace."

24th. "Can use a needle a little."

25th. "Has *walked* across the room to-day, with support, for the first time, but awkwardly; is now sitting in an easy chair, without any other support."

26th. "Is sitting up reading quite erect, without any support; walks surprisingly better."

28th. "Is sitting up *sewing*; can walk from one room to another without help."

March 2d. "Is sitting at dinner, and using a knife and fork."

And here end my notes of this interesting case *for that time.* She had several subsequent attacks, or rather *threatenings*, which it may be proper briefly to notice.

She continued so well, that, after Christmas, she went to a boarding-school in the country, where she remained till the midsummer

vacation; but about a week before coming home, which was more than fifteen months after the termination of my former attendance, she had some return of catchings, chiefly in the left side.

This attack proved rather protracted than severe: there is a slight mention of it in October; nor had she ever been quite free from it the meantime; but I know not that she was ever wholly confined by it. It was more like chorea, as it commonly occurs. She frequently walked in the garden, and once was at the play; but sometimes the agitations were rather severe, and her speech was a good deal affected in an evening, and she was apt to get up in the night, appearing not to be quite collected; her temper also was irritable: there is mention more than once of "her eyes being blood-shot."

She went to the same school again in January, 1817, where I visited her in March, and found her with head-ache at times, and face rather flushed, but "quite *free from chorea.*" She had, however, a slight threatening of it in April; after which she remained so well, that, though she came home at midsummer, I had not once occasion to prescribe for her, and she returned to school after the vacation.

In October she had another slight threatening. But in the course of the following month I was again called to her, and her complaint had taken a *different* turn.

Nov. 13. "Pain in the region of the heart, of a week's standing; soreness on pressure, ringing in left ear, aching in left arm."

Here I may remark, that there is in this family a peculiar proneness to affections of the heart, pericardium, and great vessels, more or less acute, in two instances alternating with rheumatism. In the present case, however, the symptoms speedily gave way; and on the 20th she had no complaints.

But only four days afterwards, *catchings* are again noticed, and this proved one of the most obstinate attacks, though never very severe. It resembled a good deal that of the last year, only that, along with the agitation, I think there is, for about a month or six weeks, more frequent mention of *headache, and heat, and beating, in occiput.*

Dec. 19th. "Eyes are always blood-shot when the blister is closed." By degrees, however, these indications appeared to be changed.

In the beginning of January, 1818, in consideration of the menses not having appeared, electrical sparks, and slight shocks through the pelvis, were directed, and continued on alternate days for more than a month, with no good effect.

Feb. 13th. "Complaint has increased much: five drops of the arsenical liquor to be taken three times in the day. She took this two and three times for six weeks with manifest good effect; but then a cough came on, and it was discontinued.

On the 28th of March, it is noted—"Still a little cough; catchings very slight; has been much more free from them, on the whole, since she took the arsenic; none taken for a week."

From about this time, owing in part to my attention having been painfully directed to other cases in the family, and also to her being generally able to go about the house, and even to amuse herself by playing on the piano-forte, and to walk out occasionally, I have preserved but very few minutes further of this case.

May 18th. "*Menses two days ago*, for first time."

Dec. 29th, 1819. "Was not so well without the arsenic; has been taking it again."

Feb. 1820. Took carbonate of iron, with seeming advantage; and, in the same month, had a *boil* right upon one of the lower dorsal vertebræ, and "chorea seemed better after it broke."

Of late, I have seldom seen my young friend, and possibly she may still at times have some little of her catchings; but whenever I have asked her, she has told me she was quite well; and, indeed, she is by much the stoutest of the *four* surviving sisters.

August 15, 1823. I have this day seen Miss A. Her sister told me the family had *thought* they perceived some slight appearance of catchings a little while ago; but she spoke doubtingly; and Miss A. herself said she had remained quite well. She certainly is in very good health at present.

N. B. I have since learnt that she has lately discontinued an issue which was set in her left arm upwards of six years ago.

Respecting the *practice* in these later attacks, I have little to add to what is stated above. Leeches, and cuppings, and blisters, often gave very decided relief. Purgatives, too, seemed to be more particularly called for than on the former occasion. Oil of turpentine, nitrate of silver, and carbonate of iron, were given at different times, but without any visible benefit. Caustics and setons were often spoken of, but there were objections, or a blister had been applied on the very spot, or, while they were in contemplation, she happened to get better without them. It has been stated, however, that she had an issue in the arm; and I don't find any mention of the *eyes being blod-shot* from the time that it was set.

Indeed, upon Dr. Jenner's principle of *Derivation*, upon which he cured even insanity by rubbing ointment of tartarized antimony on the arm, possibly an issue in the arm might answer as well as one in the neck; and, if it were not foreign from my present purpose, I could quote a remarkable instance where this excellent practice cured a patient of my own, of a very painful and obscure visceral complaint, by an issue above *each knee*. I confess, however, my own views would have led me to prefer a seton or issue in the neck; and, if the case were to come over again, I think I should insist most strongly upon it. But at present, my object is not so much to vindicate the practice, as to give a correct statement of facts.

N. B. I ought to have mentioned that a blister applied to the *sacrum* produced no good effect.

Oct. 23. Had a slight attack of hæmatemesis, preceded by syncope. Her sisters thought she had been subject to catchings for some time before the hemorrhage. She was quite free at my visit, and had no return during my attendance.

February, 1824. "Has menstrual discharge once a fortnight; looks pale; is quite free from the catchings."

Dec. 18, 1826. "I found my old patient very well yesterday; nor has she had any catchings, or other symptoms of chorea, since my last report."

Remarks by Dr. Harrison.—The candid narrative of the ingenuous writer furnishes, I think, abundant proofs of the real

source of this distressing malady. The attendance commenced on the 2d of January, 1815. The young lady had for a fortnight been slightly afflicted with chorea. It kept increasing from the third visit to the fourteenth. Her afflictions were then so distressing, that it had become necessary to confine her to the bed with ligatures. The violence of the disorder continued to the end of the month, when it suffered an abatement, which, as the writer justly observes, no one could have anticipated. "She spoke intelligibly in the night of January 31, desiring to be moved into bed; afterwards she slept two hours. The next morning she was able to take "a basin of boiled milk and bread." We must not omit to mention (in this place), that inflammation had been observed for some days on the sacrum. It had much increased during the last night, and was already accompanied with excoriation. "I expected its termination in sphacelus. For two days I could see no encouragement to hope, though she was certainly easier, and slept better." The following morning, viz. February, 3, her sufferings were considerably relieved; and, for the first time, on pressing the inflamed spots, pus came out of one of them in considerable quantity. The medical attendant notices "a very copious discharge from abscess on the 5th." He stated two days afterwards, "The matter appears to come from a great depth." "On the 10th, the agitations and catchings have not been so well *since the discharge was less.*" On the 11th, he says, "Tumour on sacrum much subsided."

RATIO SYMPTOMATUM.—We are led to believe, that suppurative inflammation within the lumbar, or sacral canal, was the exciting cause of the painful and diversified symptoms enumerated in this remarkable case, because the enclosed pus had scarcely began to escape from the theca through the sacral holes before the choroid symptoms suffered a perceptible diminution; and, after the discharge had continued only a few days, they wholly disappeared, leaving the patient comparatively easy and cheerful. It is worthy of remark, that, on one particular day, the discharge being lessened, the agitations and catchings were more severe; a proof of some hidden connexion subsisting between the chorea and interior of the theca.

We shall, I think, be able to explain the phenomena which manifested themselves on this occasion, by pursuing the anatomical distribution of the spinal nerves, from their commencement in the back to their ultimate ramifications. The voluntary muscles derive all their nervous energy from the spinal marrow, and the involuntary are chiefly supplied from the same fountain.* Irritations affecting any portion of this delicate substance are occasionally propagated from it to every other. The nerves proceeding from thence carry the impressions along their subdivisions, and agitate the muscular structure in which they terminate. The chorea, was, I think, excited in the arms, through the axillary plexuses, and in the lower extremities, by means of the crural nerves. The same reasoning will account for the other phenomena under which this patient suffered. One of the symptoms was a puriform secretion, with suffusion in both eyes. Afterwards the pupils were considerably dilated; still she could tell the hour by a watch. In subsequent

* See Dr. Harrison's Essay on Spinal Diseases.

attacks, mention is made more than once of her eyes being blood-shot. The same symptom is again noticed in the report for December, 1817.

One of the complaints afflicting Miss Porch, whose case is already described, was inflammation of the opaque cornea. Though she had frequent returns while walking about, the horizontal position was scarcely commenced before the ophthalmia left her; and, though several years have intervened since her restoration to good health, it has never returned.

In another patient, with a large gibbosity between her shoulders, the eyes had been a source of uneasiness for several years. The sight was always weak. The eyes were often inflamed, and the palpebræ generally became glued together in her sleep. This young lady found her vision improve as the distortion abated. The inflammation also left her, and the palpebræ no longer cohered.

I have already explained the nervous communication between some parts of the eyes and the spine. In order to account for the symptoms just enumerated, we must take into account that the eyes are supplied from different sources. One portion of the ophthalmic branch of the fifth pair unites with a ramification of the third, to form the ophthalmic ganglion. Numerous fibrils called ciliary, issuing from it, run to the eye-ball. Having pierced the sclerotic coat, they creep along between it and the choroid, to supply the iris. Other branches of the same nerve proceed to the palpebræ, tunica conjunctiva, and lachrymal gland. Hence it follows, that inasmuch as a direct intercourse subsists between the spinal nerves and the fifth pair, and also mediately through the great sympathetic, the sebaceous glands will be disordered in their secretions; the tunica conjunctiva will also occasionally inflame and suppurate, in spinal maladies.

"On the 16th, the pupils were considerably dilated, but she can tell the hour by my watch." Such is the complicated structure, and so various are the uses of the eyes, that no fewer than five pairs of nerves are distributed upon this curious organ. Each is endowed with its peculiar office. That of vision is performed by the second or optic nerves. As the sight was little impaired, I conclude, that branch of nerves did not suffer in any considerable degree. Indeed, such an exemption might have been anticipated, because these nerves have no anatomical connexion with the spine, or great sympathetic. Not so the iris—it is furnished from the fifth pair; and, therefore, when that becomes affected, the pupils are liable, from that cause alone, to be preternaturally expanded or contracted.

During the paroxysms of pain, she grated her teeth, and gnashed them together with force enough "to indent a silver spoon used in feeding her." As the jaws and teeth are supplied from other divisions of the fifth pair of nerves, the remarks formerly made in regard to the eyes will apply equally well to these latter symptoms.

The writer adds to this melancholy train of symptoms, "every muscle of her face was in a state of almost constant catching." So extensive were her sufferings, that all the voluntary muscles were subjected to the uncontrollable influence of a powerful excitation.

Besides the parts of the face already mentioned, it is supplied with

nerves from the fifth and seventh pairs. Having spoken of the former, we need not enlarge upon the details. A branch of the latter, called *pes anserinus*, or nerve of expression, anastamoses freely with the spinal nerves in the neck and under the jaw. It is through this branch that the countenance suffers so distressingly in spinal complaints. Persons familiar with these deformities have little difficulty in ascertaining their presence, or in judging pretty correctly of their magnitude, by merely seeing the visage.

In early life, I accidentally met with a young lady, who had a considerable gibbosity between her shoulders. Burke's chivalrous description of the unfortunate consort of Louis the Sixteenth was strictly applicable to what I beheld in her. "It is now sixteen or seventeen years," he observes,* "since I saw the Queen of France, then the Dauphiness, at Versailles, and surely never lighted on this orb, which she hardly seemed to touch, a more delightful vision. I saw her just above the horizon, decorating and cheering the elevated sphere she had just began to move in, glittering like the morning-star, full of life and splendour, and joy. Oh! what a revolution! and what a heart must I have, to contemplate, without emotion, that elevation and that fall!"

More than twenty years passed away before my second interview. Never can I forget the changes which disease had wrought in this fascinating beauty! Not only were the lilies and roses faded! The eyes had lost their lustre, and the face, which beamed with animation and enchantment, was become languid, contracted, and furrowed. The clear and bright tints of her complexion had long been exchanged for a dull and muddy hue. She was moreover feeble, and almost worn out, at the early age of forty. This is by no means a solitary instance of its kind. Premature spoliations originating in spinal complaints, and blighting the fairest prospects of marriage and of usefulness, are not only of frequent occurrence in both sexes, but have been often noticed.

January 29. "Stools and urine involuntarily and unconsciously discharged." The close connexion subsisting between the bladder, rectum and spine, has been already explained.† Sometimes distortion of the loins occasions only deterioration in the fæcal and urinary secretions, but I have known it produce the entire loss of feeling, and of the expulsive faculty, in both. Examples will hereafter be given of this most calamitous failure in these functions, and of their perfect restoration, by rectifying the spinal column.

January 23. "Difficulty in giving food, the tongue being drawn to the roof of the mouth."

In the report for February 14, it is alleged, that "she cannot put her tongue out of the mouth." This organ, so useful in modulating sounds, and in deglutition, is supplied with its nerves from the fifth, the eighth, and ninth pairs. These several nerves, being each of them joined anatomically to the spinal nerves and great sympathetic, were made to accord, and to participate with them, on the present occasion.

(To be Continued.)

* Burke's Reflections on the French Revolution.

† See Dr. Harrison's Essay on Spinal Diseases.

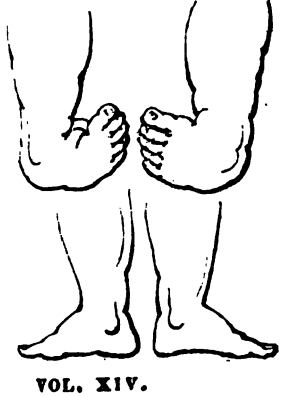
DISTORTION OF THE FEET (*Varus*).

SIR,—As you have transcribed one of my papers from the *Lancet*, you will, perhaps, not be unwilling to receive from myself a series of original papers, upon subjects that will be analogous with those which have from time to time appeared in that Journal; but, at the same time, they will not be identical, and I will take care that the two series shall not interfere with each other; that which I now transmit, is a case of distortion of the feet, to which the name of Varus has commonly been given.

CASE I.—The child of a gentleman, in the city, was born with both its feet distorted, in the way that is represented by the annexed figures; the accoucheur who attended pronounced sentence of condemnation upon the unfortunate child, and unequivocally told the parents that it was quite impossible that anything should be done to alter the form of its feet, and they must be contented to have this child a cripple to provide for during the whole of its life.

The parents were unwilling to submit, without resistance, to this sentence; they applied to many gentlemen who were then engaged in different departments of the medical profession, and, by all, the sentence that had been given at first was confirmed; till, at last, they applied to Dr. Turnbull, a physician, who was then living; that gentleman knew in what pursuits I was then engaged, and advised that they should apply to me.

I had then, for some years, left the schools of Doctor William Hunter and John Hunter, from whose instructions I acquired that knowledge which has enabled me to do whatever I have since done. While I was in their schools, peculiar circumstances induced me to think I might be able to cure this class of defects. By my associates I was laughed at for my folly in making these attempts; by my elders I was gravely cautioned not to injure my own character by pretending to do what, they were convinced, it would be impossible to perform. Being thus discouraged on all hands, with that peculiarity of temper which is called perseverance, or obstinacy, according as the subjects upon which it is exerted are laudable and successful, or otherwise, I followed my design in secret, as opportunities offered, and had made some progress, when this case was placed under my care.



I made drawings from this child's feet before I did any thing to them; and from those drawings the figures that are now annexed were taken. The two feet nearly resembled each other. The feet were quite rigidly fixed in the positions that are first represented. After the feet were cured, I made two other drawings from the feet as they then were; these are shown in the wood-cut following the one representing the distorted feet, and, by comparing the two figures together, you will see what was the amount of distortion that was obliterated.

As I have published in the *Lancet* a full account of the treatment by which, at that time, I succeeded in curing all the cases that came into my hands, it will not be necessary to repeat it here, but refer you to the several papers in the *Lancet* in which that treatment has been described; it will be sufficient to say here, that I attended this case sedulously for six months; at the end of that time the feet were completely restored to their natural form, and to their natural powers, so far as the feet of a child of seven or eight months old can be supposed to have their natural powers.

When this was completed, the lady sent for her original medical attendant, without indicating what she wanted; when she had got him into her room the child was produced, he was told what had been done, and he was asked what he thought of the child's feet now? The poor apothecary was thunderstruck; became motionless; and, after a long pause, he shook his wig and eke his head, exclaiming, in a melancholy tone, "Oh, madam! madam! the feet look very well now; but, depend upon it, when that child begins to walk, his feet will turn about, and become crooked, as they were at first, and he will be a cripple for life." This son of the pestle and mortar then withdrew, and his last prediction was not verified any more than his first.

My connexion with this family ceased when the child was cured, and the case was entered, with others, in my books, without any particular comment, or other mark of distinction. Last year, however, a gentleman called upon me; he was a stranger; he said he knew that I had been greatly injured, and misrepresented by persons who chose to be my enemies; and knowing how much I had been injured in this way, he now came forward to say that he was the individual whose case I have now related, to show me how perfect his feet were, and had been, from the moment I had left him to the time that he was speaking. He added, that he had passed the forty years, which had elapsed since I had seen him, in the enjoyment of every happiness that can be connected with the full use of his feet, which he owed to my skill; and such being the fact, he could not know how I had been injured by others without coming to show me what I had done for him. He gave me his address, and charged me to send every one to him who might be desirous to know what I was capable of, and what I had done for him. This gentleman is Lawrence Marshall, Esq.; he is well known in the underwriters' subscription room at Lloyd's coffee-house; his offices are at the New City Chambers, Bishopsgate Street, and his private residence is at Upper Clapton.

The rank which this gentleman holds in society, the motives which induced him thus to make himself known to me, and the services he was in consequence able to render me, make this one of the most remarkable circumstances that have happened in the course of my life; and is the more remarkable, because it is perfectly *unique*. I have cured more than a thousand such cases, including the children of persons in every class of society: from some of the inferiors I have sometimes had a call, to show me how their children have continued since they left me, and to express

their thankfulness for the services I had rendered them; but from no one in the rank of a gentleman, to whom I have rendered equal services, have I received such notice as I have from this gentleman, which makes me more sensible of this than I otherwise should be.

To Lawrence Marshall, Esq. then I fearlessly refer all, who are desirous to ascertain that this, the first important case of this kind that was intrusted to my management, was cured as perfectly as I have represented, at a time when it was universally believed to be absolutely incurable. In my next I shall give a case that is, in some respects, more remarkable than that which has now been related.

I am, Sir, yours, &c. T. SHELDRAKE.

7, Devonshire Street, Portland Place, March 10.

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTE of HEALTH.

On the PHYSICAL MANAGEMENT of CHILDREN, by Dr. DEWEES.

(Continued from page 175.)

In order the more effectually to impress on the mind of my readers what I consider the most important parts of the instructions I have given to the female during pregnancy, labour, and confinement; as well as rules for the general management of the child during the month, I shall briefly recapitulate them.

To prevent abortion, &c. the following rules should be scrupulously observed:

All unnecessary, and especially violent, exercise or exertion, such as too fast walking, running, dancing, unpleasant sights, or seeming dangers, over-heated rooms, and stimulating liquors of every kind; all substances that have a tendency to produce a costive state of bowels; or those which may give rise to "indigestion," as late suppers, too great a quantity of food, &c. &c. should be avoided.

To take no article that is likely to operate violently on the bowels, or to constipate, as chalk, opium, &c. and especially not to disregard the calls of nature, when they would be successfully exerted.

To remove from the chest, waist, and abdomen, every restraint, lest undue pressure should be made upon them.

To avoid all substances that may have a tendency to increasethe nervousness of the system; as strong tea, coffee, opium, &c. the too long indulgence in bed, &c.

To shun all severe study, night watching, &c.

To avoid with much care unnecessary blood-letting, but to have, however, recourse to this operation only when pain, headache, a sense of fulness, giddiness, the loss of, or imperfect sight, indicate its necessity.

The woman who may be in the habit of miscarrying, should never venture upon blood-letting without advice, as it sometimes produces the evil it is intended to prevent.

To avoid the indulgence of an inordinate appetite, as full meals often give rise to many formidable diseases.

She must give up the false notion, that more food, &c. than

ordinary is required because she is pregnant, the opinion being contrary to experience.

She must assure herself, by a reliance upon the opinions of those whose business it is to ascertain the truth upon this point, that nature institutes the sensation of nausea, and the act of vomiting, with a view to prevent too great fulness during this period.

She must not indulge in the fear, that should a certain longing have been ungratified, her child incurs the risk of being marked in consequence of the disappointment, as this apprehension is not confirmed by experience.

She must dismiss from her mind all apprehension of future consequences to her child, should she have been so unfortunate as to have suffered any great alarm, been surprised by any unexpected event, or appalled by some frightful object, or occurrence—as there is no one good reason to believe in such influence upon the child.

She should sedulously guard against any sudden gusts of passion.

To maintain, as much as possible, tranquillity and equanimity.

To believe, in general, that food injures more by its excess than its quality; by taxing the powers of the stomach too highly.

To avoid, with as much care as she would impending ruin, an indulgence in cordials, liqueurs, &c. under the pretext of calming sickness, relieving pain, or expelling wind, as a destructive habit is but too easily generated by their employment.

She must not persuade herself it is only the excessive indulgence in such articles that is mischievous; but she must clearly understand, that every thing which may unduly stimulate the system is highly injurious.

Let her turn a deaf ear to every tale of disaster or of horror which purports to have happened to the pregnant or lying-in woman—for upon investigation such tales will almost always be found without foundation, or very greatly exaggerated.

Let her not be imposed upon by a false theory, or bad advice; nor use too much exercise towards the latter period of her time, lest she provoke premature labour.

Let her not, when the period of labour is approaching, indulge in gloomy forebodings, or in unreasonable fears for the event; nor by any means whatever forget how rarely death happens during, or even after a well conducted labour.

Let her not attempt to increase the frequency or force of her pains by taking improper articles of food, or by frequent walking across the floor.

Let every precaution be taken against an attack of fever; for this purpose she must scrupulously avoid every stimulating substance, either as food, drink, or medicine. Let her bear in mind that an overcharged stomach is always unfavourable to the healthy progress of labour, or its eventual safety.

To prevent despondency, because the labour may be rather longer than she anticipated, let her recollect that the safety of this process does not depend upon the celerity with which it is performed.

That she may secure to herself the best possible chance for her

safety, let her have no opinion of her own that may clash with those of her medical attendant.

Let her not, as she values her life, indulge in any gust of passion, lest she should occasion convulsions.

Immediately after she is a mother she must impose upon herself the most perfect tranquillity.

She must carefully avoid all the exciting causes of fever, as far as in her power, by not indulging in improper articles of diet; sitting up too early, and too long; too hot a room; curtains too much closed; or seeing too much company.

She must aid the exertions of her physician to prevent any after evil, by implicitly following his directions, and preventing, as much as may be in her power, the nurse running counter to them, especially until after the fifth day complete.

Let her not permit herself to be persuaded from having her child put to the breast, so soon as she herself may be able to bear the fatigue.

Let her not delegate to another the sacred duty of nursing her own child; unless the reasons for doing so are insurmountable.

She must most scrupulously attend to the dressing and undresing, or even performing this herself, when her health and strength will permit.

She should never, under any pretext of convenience, permit her child to be fed, so long as she can supply it with sufficient nourishment herself; and to secure to herself this important point, she should pay a scrupulous regard to her diet, and her exercise in the open air.

The dressing of the child should early engage the attention of the mother; it should always be made subservient to comfort instead of show.

This should consist in part of flannel; especially during cold, or even cool weather.

The dressings of the child should be changed as often as they become soiled.

Though it may be found that flannel is the most eligible substance as a general rule, there are cases in which it may be improper; and these should be carefully distinguished.

The belly band is one of the most important parts of the child's dress; it should *always* be made of flannel, and should be always cut *bias*.

The greatest care should be taken to apply it properly, and a tight application should be particularly avoided; for if it be applied too tightly, it may produce the evil it is intended to prevent.

The child should be carefully protected against all unnecessary wet; and when it is discovered to be in this situation, it should be speedily changed.

In dressing the child, as few pins should be employed as possible; three are all that are necessary, if the clothes be properly made.

As a general rule, the child should never be fed at this period of its life; there may be exceptions, however, that may render this necessary.

When an exception to this rule exists, the food of the child should consist of milk, barley water, and sugar; and exhibited under the important restrictions I have made.

If the child be fed, it should have but small quantities at a time, and never crammed to surfeit.

The mother should exercise in the open air, as soon as this is rendered safe, by the state of her health, the period after her confinement, and the state of the weather.

She should never subject herself to partial exposures, under the hope of "hardening herself."

The re-application of a diaper after it has been dried simply, should be prohibited; as several evils arise from the practice.

The mother may indulge in such diet as her experience has proved to be innocent—for it will seldom or never disagree with the child, when it perfectly suits the mother.

When the mother experiences any inconvenience from the use of any substance or substances, she should not hesitate a moment to abandon them; for if they disagree with her, they will be sure to do so with the child.

Should there be a failure in the quantity of milk, the mother must not attempt to increase it by highly seasoned food and stimulating drinks.

She may, however, use with great advantage sometimes, the nutritious substances recommended in the text.

Having in the preceding pages considered the duties of the mother during pregnancy and confinement, I shall now proceed to detail what may be proper for the offspring, from the period of its birth to that of puberty. I shall confine my remarks, in this part of the subject, strictly to the *physical* influence of certain agents upon the human body, and the most proper *physical* education, up to the period just prescribed. The medical treatment will form a distinct subject of consideration. But before I commence this part, it will be well to describe the requisites of a nursery.—*(To be continued.)*

DIABETES.

Dr. Hobson, of Leeds, has published a case of diabetes, in which he thinks the solution of chloride of soda proved successful under his direction. The countenance of the patient (a male about forty-five years of age,) indicated great debility and distress, the skin was hard and dry, the tongue, which was thickly covered with a very dark fur, was very dry and hard. The thirst intolerable. The pulse about 134, amazingly strong and bounding. No pain in the region of the kidneys or of the liver. The urine when recently made emitted an odour like new hay. The quantity voided from ten o'clock at night to seven in the morning was generally about ten pints. Four ounces of urine was examined by Mr. West, a chemist of Leeds, which on evaporation produced 480 grains of saccharine glutinous matter. The body was much emaciated. The Doctor ordered the patient to abstain from fermented liquors and vegetables, to take a meal of animal food *four or five times* a-day, with sea-biscuit instead of bread and other

vegetable productions, and to use a mineral water of the neighbourhood, nearly free from any article in solution (the Holbeck), as his common drink. He directed an ounce of Labaraque's solution of chloride of soda, mixed with the Holbeck water, to be taken daily, by sipping a portion of it every hour, and the following pills to be taken every sixth hour:

Take of Opium, a quarter of a grain;
Powdered Rhubarb, 2 grains;
Simple Syrup, a sufficient quantity to form a pill.

On the following day, the bowels being confined, the Doctor ordered the pills of opium, &c. to be omitted, and the following to be administered:

Take of Extract of Jalap, 8 grains;
Aloes, *one* grain (!), to be mixed and divided into two pills.

The pills not having acted in the evening, the doctor directed them to be repeated, and the daily quantity of the solution of chloride of soda to be increased to an ounce and half. The urine was now considerably less, and the pulse reduced to 110. The bowels having been properly emptied, the Doctor prescribed the following pill to be taken every sixth hour:

Take of Opium, a quarter of a grain;
Extract of Rhubarb, 8 grains;
Aloes, *half a grain* (!!) Mix.

On the following day the tongue was a little cleaner, the quantity of urine considerably diminished, and the quality more healthy; no thirst, and the skin slightly moist.

The patient, on the next day, was in every respect much better. He complained of the solution having the effect of producing something like intoxication. The Doctor ordered the pills of opium, &c. to be omitted, and the daily quantity of the solution of chloride of soda to be reduced to an ounce and a half. He also ordered the following powder to be taken every four hours:

Take of Compound Powder of Kino, 6 grains;
Ditto ditto of Ipecacuna, 4 grains;
Washed Sulphur, one scruple. Mix.

After continuing these remedies three days, *i. e.* from the 15th of October to the 18th, the pulse was eighty, the tongue considerably cleaner, the appetite good, strength increasing, the bowels regular, and a profuse perspiration over *the region of the stomach*, but on no other part; the mouth moist, the countenance improved.

Under this treatment the symptoms gradually abated, and in the course of three weeks he was free from the disease.

The Doctor concludes his narrative of this case with the following queries: "If, as I believe, the solution of chloride of soda subdued the disease, then it becomes an interesting subject of inquiry how the *chlorine* escaped from the body? By what organs it was disposed of? Was chlorine emitted in the profuse perspiration mentioned, as occurring over the region of the stomach?" (!!!) We congratulate the Doctor on his "lucky hit," and we sincerely hope the treatment will prove as successful in the practice of others. We confess we should perfer the chloride of lime, to the chloride of soda.

in diabetes. It is a curious fact, that when a new preparation is introduced as a remedy for a disease, it is sure to have a fair trial in almost all the diseases that assail poor humanity. Iodine, which was first recommended for the cure of wen, has been prescribed for numerous maladies, and cases of all have been published, in which, it is said to have succeeded. The chloride of soda, which was first recommended as a detergent or antiseptic application in gangrenous or sloughing ulcerations, is now running its course through the long catalogue of diseases; and the cases of those whose constitutions resisted the progress of the malady are alone published, while those which terminated unfavourably, although by far the most numerous, are passed over in silence. Such random experiments cannot fail to increase the confidence of a discerning public in the healing art, and fully to confirm the assertions of some late writers of the high degree of perfection to which medicine has been brought by the labours of the moderns!!! We should have been much more pleased with Doctor Hobson's report, had he noticed the principle on which he prescribed the cloride of soda, and whether he considers it a stimulant or a sedative. This case of diabetes appears to us, from the state of the pulse, to have been a very proper one for the treatment by copious abstraction of blood; and as the chloride of soda is a stimulant, we should have condemned its use so long as the pulse was "amazingly strong and bounding;" but theory must give way to facts, especially when the constitution of the patient will not give way to the malady and the scientific attacks on it. Mr. Hoskin, of London, has communicated, through the medium of the periodical press, "a case of diabetes," in which a diet of animal food with opium succeeded. The patient was forty-eight years of age. He prescribed the composition of ipecacuan and opium, named Dover's powders, (ten grains twice a-day, and a diet of animal food). During its use the secretion of urine gradually decreased. He had been living on scanty meals of vegetables, his appetite was good, bowels regular, no thirst, pulse natural and tongue clean. In fact, if it were a case of diabetes, it was in an incipient stage. To us it appears to have been a case of emaciation from the want of a diet sufficiently nutritious, and that the increased secretion of urine was the consequence of living on vegetables, during which the urine is always in excess. What remained after evaporating the urine nearly to dryness was not sweet.

SPASMODIC ASTHMA.

The leading physicians of Philadelphia and of New York continue to speak in the highest terms of commendation of the herb *lobelia inflata*, as a *specific* remedy for spasmodic asthma. The Editors of the *Glasgow Medical Journal* have also published a case of asthma, communicated by Dr. John Andrew, of Glasgow, in which the tincture of it completely succeeded in terminating the paroxysm in the course of forty minutes, after the antispasmodic medicines (usually prescribed) had totally failed. The Doctor likewise states, that he has prescribed the tincture of the *lobelia inflata* in the worst forms of hooping-cough, with the most decided

advantage; in *all* relieving, and, with the exception of *one*, curing the disease. "There is no medicine," says the Doctor, "with which I am acquainted that so effectually allays pulmonic irritation, and relieves the air-vessels of viscid mucus, as the *lobelia inflata*." In an obstinate case of St. Vitus's dance, in which purgatives, various antispasmodics, and tonics, had been administered without benefit, Dr. Andrew ordered forty drops of the tincture to be taken three times a-day, which in four days completely allayed the convulsive motion of the limbs, and the patient (a female about fourteen years of age) soon got well. This tincture merits a trial in cases of tic douloureux and epilepsy, which have resisted the effects of the carbonate of iron, prussic acid, acetate of morphine, belladonna, and cicuta.

The *ethereal* tincture of the lobelia inflata, in the dose of a teaspoonful, two or three times a-day, in a small wine glass of *cold* water, is a very excellent preventive of the asthmatic paroxysm, even when the sense of constriction of the air-vessels indicates its near approach; and when taken during the violence of the paroxysm, it speedily terminates it. Dr. Robinson, in his *Treatise on the Tonic Properties of the Round-Leaf Cornel*, recommends the *lobelia inflata*, mixed with the composition formerly sold under the name of Herb Tobacco, to be smoked every evening; and the vapour inhaled during smoking, we are told by a respectable practitioner, affords great facility of breathing, and unloading the air-vessels of phlegm by occasioning copious expectoration, insures sound and refreshing sleep. This composition, we find, may be obtained of Mr. Butler, herbalist, of Covent Garden. Dr. Epps has published the following article on the different effects of animal and vegetable jellies, in spasmodic asthma, and other affections of the internal membrane of the windpipe, and the bronchial ramifications, communicated by Mr. Kerr:—"During several years of my life I have had frequent opportunities of observing patients labouring under spasmodic asthma, and one circumstance that particularly astonished me was, that where the violence of the paroxysm was increased by *vegetable* mucilages (as arrow root, tapioca, linseed tea, decoction of marshmallow root, barley water, &c.) relief was invariably afforded by draughts of *animal* jelly, *rendered liquid by warm water*. The jellies generally employed were obtained from the calf's foot and leg of beef. Of the general application, I am so perfectly satisfied, that I invariably recommended patients suffering under spamodic asthma to drink *diluted* animal jellies."

To this communication the Editors of the *London Medical and Surgical Journal* have appended the following note:—"These circumstances we beg to recommend to the notice of our medical brethren, and perhaps some one will favour us with his views on the subject. We may add, too, that the utility of *animal* jellies extends, according to Mr. Kerr's experience, to other pulmonic and bronchial affections." When the stomach does not perform its office, in consequence of morbid excitement or increased nervousness, which is generally the case with asthmatics, the vegetable jellies, particularly with wine and sugar, with which they are, we believe, always more or less mixed, rapidly ferment; the consequences of which are a distressing distension of

the stomach by the evolved air, and an aggravation of the nervous excitement from the production of an acid, both of which are capable of bringingon a paroxysm in a person strongly predisposed to the disease, or of considerably aggravating the paroxysm after it has taken place. Thin animal jelly, as that of the stag's horn, or ivory shavings, is unquestionably more easily digested in an irritated or nervous stomach, than even vegetable mucilage; but *thick* animal jelly, as that of the calf's foot or of a leg of beef, we have known to produce a most distressing sensation of oppression, or, as some patients have observed, a sense of "great weight on the stomach," which has occasioned violent asthmatic attacks, that have continued till the stomach was relieved by vomiting. We have always found *thick animal* jellies and gellatinous soups to disagree with asthmatic and gouty subjects. In cases of pulmonary consumption, where the stomach generally performs its office, we have uniformly given the preference to the vegetable jellies and mucilaginous drinks, and, therefore, cannot speak from experience of the effect of animal jellies in any form. The respectability of the gentlemen who recommend dilute animal jellies in pulmonic affections, entitles them to a fair trial, particularly in the advanced stage of tubercular consumption, and in cases of spasmodic asthma.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.

We have lately met with a case of pulmonic affection, attended with *all* the symptoms of real or organic pulmonary consumption in its last stage, in which the inhalation of the vapour of the *true* Barbadoes tar, inhaled for ten minutes three times a-day, succeeded, in the course of three days, in allaying the inflammatory excitement in the windpipe, bronchial ramification, and cough. After persevering in the use of this remedy three weeks, the patient was entirely free from any symptoms of pulmonary consumption. The progress of emaciation, which had been rapid, was soon checked; and in about a fortnight after he commenced the inhalation of the vapour, he was evidently gaining flesh and strength, and at the end of three weeks, he had gained in weight upwards of two stone. He took three tea-spoonsful of the oxymel of the hedge hyssop, in a wine-glassful of the decoction of Iceland moss, four times a-day, and had an euphorbium plaster over the breast-bone. These remedies, with the occasional use of a mild aperient, (the alcaline extract of jalap,) had been employed for nearly two months; but, although they evidently abated the violence of the cough, and facilitated expectoration, the emaciation and general weakness daily increased, till the vapour of the Barbadoes tar was inhaled. After adopting this remedy, the patient soon experienced an abatement of irritation in the windpipe, great facility of breathing, and, as he observed, an alteration in the taste and appearance of the matter expectorated. To us, the case appeared hopeless, and at the time we recommended the inhalation of the vapour of the Barbadoes tar, we advised him to lose no time in going to Exmouth or Sidmouth; but urgent business prevented his following our advice, and perhaps fortunately for him, for, had he left London, he would not have

properly inhaled the vapour. We have used the adjective *true*, because the article has not been till of late imported into this country. The petroleum obtained from coal by the gas companies, and imported from Scotland, is of a very inferior quality, esssentially differing, according to Mr. Faraday's late report, from the Barbadoes tar, though very generally sold for it.

HABITUAL COSTIVENESS, INDIGESTION, &c.

The following pills have been found particularly beneficial in obviating costiveness, particularly when constitutional:

Take of the alcaline watery Extract of Aloes, and of
The alcaline Extract of Jalap, of each one drachm;
Jamaica Ginger powder, ten grains.

Mix, and divide into twenty-six pills. After emptying the intestinal canal by three of these pills, taken either at bed-time, or an hour or two before breakfast—one or two taken at bed-time generally succeed in producing a fecal evacuation daily. If the complaint should be attended with indigestion, two of the following compositions may be substituted for the above, after the bowels have been freely opened by them.

Take of the alcaline Extract of Jalap,
The alcaline watery Extract of Aloes,
Extract of Chirayita, of each half a drachm;
Dried Subcarbonate of Soda, two scruples;
Powdered Jamaica Ginger, fifteen grains.

Mix well together, and divide into thirty pills; two to be taken once or twice a-day with a glass of water. It has been ascertained that the irritating effects of aloes on the rectum is produced by the resinous part of it, from which the alcaline *aqueous* extract is entirely free. This watery preparation of aloes is also an excellent stomachic, and has been found, in conjunction with the alcaline extract of jalap, more efficacious in deterging the lower portions of the intestines (colon and rectum), and in promoting the process of fecification, (from an indolence in which arise numerous diseases of the skin and disorders of the head), than any other simple or compound purgative. These alcaline extracts, combined with the extract of chirayita and the dried subcarbonate of soda and Jamaica ginger, form a most excellent remedy for indigestion, accompanied with sluggishness of the intestines and of the liver. Although the extract of chirayita acts, as we observed in a late Number, as efficaciously in deterging the liver, and in promoting an healthy secretion of bile as the blue pill, it is exempt from the objections made to the blue pill, namely, "disturbing the nervous system, disordering the gums and salivary glands, and occasioning disease in the teeth." If the bowels should be so obstinately constipated as to require a more active purgative than the alcaline extract of jalap and the alcaline *aqueous* extract of aloes, the composition introduced by Dr. Dick, sold under the name of the Bengal Antibilious Opening Pills, (noticed in our second Number,) may be substituted for them.

FOR SORE NIPPLES.

Mr. North, the scientific conductor of the *Medical and Physical Journal*, says he has found the following composition a very efficacious topical remedy for sore nipples:—

Take of Gum Arabic Powder half an ounce;
Alum, five grains.

The alum, being reduced in a glass mortar to a fine powder, is to be well mixed with the gum arabic powder.

This composition is to be applied to the parts affected (previously dried by soft old linen) every time after suckling, by means of a camel-hair pencil. This remedy has the great recommendation of being incapable of injuring the infant, which cannot be said of those in common use, many of which contain some preparation of lead. The nipple, after being covered with the powder, should be protected against the friction of the chemise by a shield of bees' wax, softened with olive oil, or by very fine lint. The composition noticed in the "New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia," under the head of "Cataplasm of Alum," made by briskly stirring a small lump of alum in the white of an egg, till a coagulum is formed, which is very similar to the above powder, was generally prescribed for the same purpose by the late Dr. Chester and Mr. Naylor of Gloucester.

FUNGUS HÆMATODES.

Dr. Schutte, a German physician, has lately published a case of this morbid production, in which a composition of alum and red oxyde of mercury succeeded in destroying it. He first employed it in the proportion of six parts of finely powdered alum to one of the red oxyde of mercury, the latter of which he gradually increased till the proportions were equal. The skin had been previously destroyed by ulceration, occasioned by punctures and an application of resin, with pressure. The punctures were followed by an alarming hæmorrhage. In such a case we should prefer the *burnt* alum to common alum.

PALSY OF THE RIGHT LEG AND THIGH.

The Editors of the "Archives Générales" have published a case of palsy of the right lower extremity, (the sequel of an accident,) in which acupuncturation (as recommended by Mr. Churchill), under the direction of M. Trouvé, fully succeeded. After four needles had been introduced in the lumbar region for two hours, the patient was capable of walking without support, which he had not been able to do for some years. The pain in the loins nearly ceased, but that in the thigh increased. In the evening of the same day three needles were introduced for three hours, into the superior back part of the thigh, in the course of the sciatic nerve, which entirely removed the pain. The pain in the leg now becoming more severe, M. Trouvé introduced two needles into the calf of the leg, which succeeded in subduing it. The pain, however, becoming

severe in the foot, M. T. attacked it with two needles, which had the effect of completing the cure.

PALSY OF THE LOWER LIMBS, *(paraplegia.)*

At an evening meeting of the Members of the College of Physicians, held the 11th of last month, a few memorandums were read, which had been sent to the College, by the late Dr. Baillie, for publication, to confirm the opinion the Doctor had formerly given, that palsy of the lower extremities is "*frequently* dependent on disease of the brain, rather than of the spine." Since the last volume of the Transactions of the College was published, the Doctor had collected no less than fifteen proofs, which, in his opinion, fully established his hypothesis. "A *Clergyman* had been blind of *one* eye from *gutta serena*, with palsy of the lower extremities! a *nobleman* had the vision of both eyes much impaired with the same disease, but his complaint at length a *good deal* subsided! a *gentleman* had his memory much impaired, and his mind so confused, that he could not keep his own little domestic accounts, during the *latter period* of palsy of the lower limbs!!!"—Of all the collection, of which the above are fair specimens, the brain only of one was examined, and that case was given to the Doctor by Mr. Earle!—small tumours were discovered, but no account of the state of the spinal marrow!! One would suppose that no practitioner, acquainted with paralytic affections and the anatomy and physiology of the brain and nervous system, could advance so ridiculous an opinion, that a disease of the brain, the only symptom of which was gutta serena of one eye, or impaired memory and confused mind, should be capable of completely paralyzing the *spinal* nerves leading to the bladder and rectum, or lower extremities, without affecting the nerves of the upper extremities!! An experienced surgeon, or general practitioner, would rather attribute the complaint of the optic nerve, or of the mind, to an affection of the spinal marrow, of which the palsy of the lower extremities was the consequence, than attribute the latter to a disease in the brain; and, indeed, on considering, the disturbance in the brain and whole nervous system generally attendant on inflammation of the dura mater or pia mater of the spinal marrow, will be surprised that local or general affections of the brain are not more frequently produced by the state of the spinal marrow, of which palsy of the lower extremities is the sequel.

We have noticed this ridiculous theory, because it might induce inexperienced practitioners to direct their attention to the *effect* instead of the *cause* of palsy of the lower extremities. The College being, in *practical* medicine, at least two hundred years behind the general practitioners of this country, it would be more consistent with their general policy to give lectures from the publications of experienced practitioners, than to attempt to broach new doctrines. Abernethy observed, in his usual abrupt manner, to a lady on whom he could not prevail to listen to his advice before she had related the history of her case, "Well, madam, now if you had attended to my advice, I should not have known you are such a fool as you are." If Dr. Baillie had

not married the daughter of Dr. Denman, he would have been known to the profession as an anatomist only, and never as a physician to the public. The Doctor's knowledge of therapeutics was very limited, and of chemistry he was totally ignorant; and as to his knowledge of diseases, the memorandums he bequeathed to the College, which we have published in our Twelfth Volume, afford decisive evidence that he was deficient in the important branch of medicine, termed pathology. But the Doctor is extolled by the College as a medical luminary of the first order!!! God help us! a great physician, although ignorant of three of the most important departments of medicine!!! "All the collateral lights of natural philosophy, which entitle the medical graduates of the English Universities to the appellation of Physician, supersede the use of a knowledge of chemistry, pharmacy, surgery, anatomy, &c. &c.!! This humbug of the fee-trade is become too glaring to mislead the public; and the general practitioners, ashamed of the degradation to which they have so long submitted, begin to assume the rank in the medical world to which their superior medical education and professional acquirements justly entitle them. In our next Number we shall give a very interesting correspondence between a general practitioner and a *fellow* of the College; and the reason why the former refused to meet the latter in consultation, and the consequent dismissal of the Fellow, with a copy of his prescription.

CHILBLAIN AND RHEUMATISM.

Mr. Wakley has published a communication from Mr. Henry Day, in which the tincture of iodine is recommended as a topical remedy for chilblain. Three applications of this remedy, Mr. Day says, succeeded in restoring the parts to their natural state. The most speedy and efficacious topical remedy we have met with for chilblain, and also for rheumatic affections, is the naptha liniment, noticed in a late number of this work.

In one case of distressing rheumatic affections of the knees, of long standing, in which it was well rubbed over the parts affected night and morning, it succeeded in removing the disease in three days. M. Martinet highly extols the rectified oil of turpentine, used both internally and externally as a remedy for chronic rheumatism, particularly for lumbago. As an external application, we have no hesitation in asserting positively, (*we speak from the results of numerous trials,*) the naptha liniment will be found to prove much more efficacious than oil of turpentine, and the *true* Barbadoes tar than its internal use. The Barbadoes tar may be taken either mixed with honey, or the conserve of roses. The dose is a small tea-spoonful twice a-day.

INDIGESTION, *attended with* GENERAL DEBILITY, ŒDEMATOUS SWELLING *of the* LEGS, PAUCITY *of* URINE, *&c.*

We have met with several cases of general debility, particularly in elderly people, in which the round-leaf cornel has been taken with the most decided advantage, after the sulphate of quinine and

other tonic medicines had disordered the stomach; but the following case of general debility, attended with all the symptoms of breaking up of the constitution, or what Sir Henry Halford terms the climacteric disease, as loss of appetite, intestinal flatus, languid circulation, drowsiness, occasional giddiness, paucity of urine, dropsical swelling of the legs, irregular action of the heart, &c. &c. is the most decisive of its tonic powers.

Mrs. W. the wife of Captain W. a commander in the royal navy, about 60 years of age, had been sensible for at least four years that her general health was in a declining state. Within the last year she had taken her meals without any relish, and the symptoms noticed above had so insensibly supervened, that she scarcely noticed them till her legs became so œdematous as to render her nearly incapable of ascending a pair of stairs. In this state, she was ordered to take three table-spoonsful of the following mixture, three times a-day:

Take of Alcaline Extract of the Round-Leaf Cornel, 1 drachm;
Tincture of Squills,
Sweet Spirit of Nitre,
Compound Spirit of Ammonia, of each 2 drachms;
Tincture of the Round-Leaf Cornel, 1 ounce;
Distilled Water, 6 ounces. Mix.

The bowels being in a very sluggish state, she was desired to take three of the following pills twice a week:

Take of Alcaline Extract of Jalap,
Alcaline Aqueous Extract of Aloes,
Blue Pill, of each half a drachm;
Essential Oil of Buchu Leaves, 6 drops;
Ginger Powder, ten grains. Mix, and divide into 18 pills.

She was directed to confine her diet, chiefly to the interior of roasted, boiled, or broiled beef, or mutton; and as her teeth would not admit her preparing it for digestion in the stomach, she was directed not only to bruise it, but to cut it into very small pieces, so as to require little mastication. After following this advice, and taking the medicines regularly for a month, she was free from every symptom of indigestion; her appetite was good, the intestines were free from flatus, the secretion of urine was natural, both in quantity and quality, and her legs were reduced to their natural size; and when we saw her, a few days ago, she emphatically observed, "I am *now* as well as *I ever was in the course of my life!*" To her the round-leaf cornel certainly appeared to be what Dr. Robinson represents it, the natural tonic of the human stomach; for although the tonics in general use had evidently disordered her stomach, the mixture of the extract, &c. not only sat pleasantly on it, but acted as a cordial.

The results of our experience, and of those who are giving the round-leaf cornel a trial, with whom we are acquainted, fully confirm the reports of its peculiar tonic properties by Dr. Robinson, and Professor Ives, and others, and as a tonic in cases of primary debility, either from age, or abuses of any kind, we declare it to be a most valuable addition to our materia medica.

CATARRHAL, OR RECENT COUGH, &c.

For the cough which has been very general throughout London, the lettuce lozenge, made according to the directions published by Professor Duncan, of Edinburgh, has been found very beneficial, and is no doubt the most efficacious and safe composition that has been introduced into the practice of medicine, not only for recent or catarrhal cough, but for allaying irritation in the mucous membrane lining the windpipe and the bronchial ramifications, attendant on pulmonary consumption. It also promotes expectoration, and produces a determination to the skin. The remedies so industriously advertised, under the name of balsam of horehound, balsam of honey, balsam of aniseeds, &c. succeed in suspending cough in consequence of most of them containing opium; but by checking expectoration and accelerating the circulation, this effect is very frequently followed by inflammation, either of the pleura, substance of the lungs, or of the membranous lining of the windpipe, &c.

To this class of dangerous nostrums, advertised as preparations of horehound, honey, &c. not a particle of which enters the composition, many thousands annually fall a sacrifice in this metropolis. The prevalence of pulmonary consumption in this country may be attributed to the false confidence placed in such compositions, till disease has taken place in the substance of the lungs, which the most judicious treatment cannot remove.

For cough attended with fever, a hot dry skin, irritation in the windpipe, oppressed breathing, pain in the chest, particularly on coughing, the following mixture is much recommended by an eminent physician:—

Take of Mindererus's Spirit, 2 ounces;
Ipecacuan Wine, 2 drachms;
Solution of Acetate of Morphine, 20 drops;
Gum Arabic Powder, 3 drachms;
Simple Oxymel, half an ounce;
Almond Emulsion, five ounces. Mix. From two to three table spoonsful to be taken every three hours.

This is also an excellent mixture for pleurisy and inflammation of the lungs, after bleeding, and the operation of an aperient medicine. A blister should also be applied over the breast-bone, or between the shoulders. In such cases, it is scarcely necessary to observe, no time should be lost in having recourse to the advice of an experienced skilful practitioner.

PREVENTION OF SEA SICKNESS.

Dr. Derbishire, a respectable physician of *Boulogne-sur-Mer*, has found an "embrocation, composed entirely of vegetable matter," rubbed over the region of the stomach, to succeed in preventing sea sickness. We have met with several gentlemen and ladies who could never cross the Channel, even when the sea and air were calm, without experiencing distressing nausea, and occasional vomiting; but who, after using this embrocation, continued free from any disorder of the stomach, even when the sea was very boisterous and

the wind high. The evidence produced by Dr. Derbishire in its favour, is decisive of its preventive powers against sea sickness. The remedy being vegetable, its component parts cannot be ascertained by analysis; but the Doctor having taken out a patent for it, we shall certainly publish the specification of it as soon as it is registered at the patent office. Every medical man, acquainted with the sympathy existing between the stomach and the skin of the abdomen, will admit that an external application may be capable of preventing nausea. We advise the Doctor to give it a trial, in cases of nausea attendant on pregnancy.

INDIGESTION, from EXCESSIVE SENSIBILITY of the STOMACH, &c.

The following is a translation of a prescription given by Dr. James Johnson, for a case of indigestion, arising from morbid sensibility of the stomach, and inactivity of the liver, &c.:

Take of Infusion of Chirayita, 7 ounces;
Subcarbonate of Soda, 1 drachm;
Compound Tincture of Cardamom Seeds, 6 drachms.
Mix. Three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a-day.

This mixture succeeded, in the course of a fortnight, in restoring the patient to health.

Since we noticed the peculiar deobstruent and stomachic properties of the chirayita, several lots of the herb have been brought into the market, some of which, having been imported several years ago, as a substitute for hops, when they were very dear, are in so perished a state, that three parts of the plant, in which its virtues principally reside, are unfit for use. We therefore advise those, who wish to give it a fair trial, to procure it either from the Medical Hall, in Piccadilly, or from Messrs. Moxon and Co. of Hull; or Mr. Hitchcock, of Taunton. Dr. Kinglake, of Taunton, and Dr. Sully, of Wiveliscombe, and some physicians of Dublin, Hull, Manchester, and Cheltenham, who have given it a trial, speak of it as a most valuable stomachic, and a deterger of the liver, &c.; and all their reports agree, that it more effectually cleanses the liver, and produces a healthy secretion of bile, than either the blue pill or calomel. A gentleman of Bristol, who had consulted all the leading medical gentlemen in that city, and who, under their direction, had taken the blue pill, and nearly the whole class of stomachic medicines, without deriving from any the smallest benefit, determined to visit London, for the purpose of placing himself under the care of an eminent physician. Meeting, however, with an account of the peculiar deobstruent and stomachic qualities of the chirayita, in the *Gazette of Health*, he determined to give it a trial. The mixture of the infusion of the herb, similar to that prescribed by Dr. James Johnson, in a few days succeeded in removing the leading symptoms, and in a short time restored him to a state of perfect health. This gentleman is known to Dr. Johnson.

For indigestion, dependent on morbid sensibility of the stomach,

and congestion of the liver, we have found the chirayita an invaluable remedy; and we have uniformly found it to produce the same kind of bilious fæces as the blue pill, and which Abernethy notices as indicative of health; but for indigestion from debility, or the indigestion of elderly people, it does not act so beneficially as the round-leaf cornel.

CANCEROUS ULCERATION.

The Editors of the *Provincial Medical Gazette*, or *South and West of England Hospital Reporter*, have published the following formula, for making an ointment of the flowers of foxglove, which, they say, Mr. Chevalier has found very efficacious in *diminishing the activity* of cancerous ulceration:

Take of the Flowers of Foxglove fresh, 1 ounce;
Fresh Butter, five parts.

After simmering till the leaves are crisp, strain off the ointment whilst warm. Mr. Allard, an eminent surgeon of Bristol, at the time he held the appointment of senior surgeon to the Bristol Infirmary, was in the habit of prescribing the ointment of the leaves of foxglove, which is similar to the above, as a sedative application to cancerous and irritative ulcerations. In the formula published in the *New Medico-Chirurgical Pharmacopœia*, four ounces of the recent leaves are directed to be simmered in 4 ounces of fresh lard.

PILES.

The Editors of the periodical work, from which the preceding article was taken, have published the following remedy for piles, which, they say, was prescribed by Sir Henry Halford:

Take of Ointment of Nitrate of Mercury and of Almond Oil, of each equal parts.

To be well mixed in a glass or porcelain mortar. To be applied to the seat of the disease two or three times a-day. The same receipt was published nearly twenty years since, in an early edition of *Dr. Reece's Medical Guide*, for piles, attended with erysipelatous inflammation, for which we have found it very efficacious.

PREVENTION OF MEASLES.

The following account of the effects of sulphur, in affording security against the infection of measles, has been lately published by the Medical Society of Tours:—"In a family of four children, two took the flowers of sulphur night and morning, and were entirely preserved from the contagious influence of the disease, although they continued to live in the same atmosphere, and were allowed to communicate freely with the other children who had the disease. Two of five adults, who lived in the same house, contracted measles: one had before had the disease. They had employed no precautionary means. In another family, one child had measles. Three other children were not separated from the patient: they took, night and morning, sulphur mixed in sugar, and escaped the disease. The dose of the sulphur should be from two to six or eight grains, according to the age.—In another case, an infant took the sulphur as soon as the disease had clearly manifested itself in

his brother. In eight days, however, the measles appeared, but the malady ran so favourable a course that it was probable the preservative effects of the remedy had some influence. Four other children were treated in a similar manner: they were designedly exposed to the contagion, but entirely escaped." Sulphur being an aperient and sudorific, given at the time of sickening, and continued during the progress of measles, is very likely to render the disease mild, and to protect the lungs against the serious mischief, which, in scrofulous subjects, frequently takes place during measles and hooping-cough, and to prevent secondary fever.

COMMUNICATION OF A CERTAIN DISEASE BY LEECHES.

The Editors of a German Medical Journal desire their readers to bear in mind, that leeches which have been applied to patients affected with syphilis are capable of communicating the disease on being used again. Several apparently well-authenticated cases of this disease having been communicated to children by leeches that had been applied to a syphilitic patient, have been published in the foreign journals. In this country, it is very common for apothecaries to apply the same leeches to several patients. When a leech throws up a little blood on being applied to the skin, previously to its adhering, the patient may conclude for certainty that it has been used.

LAND SCURVY.

The tincture of iodine has been lately successfully exhibited in the leprous affection of the skin, vulgarly termed "land scurvy." A respectable surgeon, who has lately published a case in which it succeeded, commenced with the dose of eight drops, which he gradually increased to twelve drops, twice a-day. Notwithstanding various active remedies were employed for five months, the disease continued to advance, till the tincture of iodine was employed. In a few days, the general health sensibly improved, and the eruption, which had rapidly extended over the limbs and trunk of the body, gradually disappeared. The proportion of animal food was increased by the advice of the surgeon. He concludes his narrative with the observation, "the essential part of the treatment in this disease consists in nutritive diet;" and he does not hazard an opinion as to the share the tincture of iodine had in effecting the cure. Mr. Green, a scientific surgeon, who has established different baths in Great Marlborough-street,) whose nosological chart of the diseases of the skin we lately noticed, has found the mercurial and the sulphureous vapour-baths very efficacious in curing this disease. We have met with a case of leprous affection of the skin, of long standing, in which the sulphureous vapour-bath, under the direction of Mr. Green, succeeded, after mercurial and sulphureous lotions and ointments, with attention to the stomach and bowels, had failed.

TIC DOULOUREUX IN THE FACE.

The Editors of an Italian Medical Journal have published a case of tic douloureux, in which two doses of the colchicum wine (thirty

drops in each) cured the disease. Abstraction of blood, purgatives of various kinds, sedatives, blisters, lotions of laurel-water, warm baths, and numerous other means, tried in their turn, afforded no relief. Dr. Campagnano, being informed that the patient had been affected with pains in the joints of the fingers, thought the acutely painful affection of the face might be gouty, and he therefore ordered the colchicum wine to be administered, and the happy result, in the opinion of the Editors, proves that his conclusion was correct.

THERAPEUTICS.

THE FŒTID CHENOPODY.

At a meeting of the Medico-Botanical Society of London, held on the 10th ult., Mr. Houlton, the scientific Lecturer on Botany at the Western Hospital, read a paper on the medicinal properties and chemical analysis of the fœtid chenopody (*chenopodium olidum*). After making some judicious observations on the neglect into which many of our indigenous plants, once highly valued by medical practitioners, have fallen, in consequence of a kind of mania for exotic productions, he stated that he had found it, in two particular cases, to produce a most decided emmenagogue effect, a power which some of the antients attributed to it. Mr. Houlton exhibited a specimen of the extract which he had made, and in which form he had been in the habit of prescribing it. When the infusion of the plant is carefully evaporated in *vacuo* to a proper consistence to form into pills, it contains all its medicinal virtues in great perfection, and in this form it is not offensive to the palate or to the stomach. The dose is from ten grains in two pills, or fifteen in three pills, twice a-day. Messrs. Chevalier and Lasseigne state that they discovered ammonia in it, and that the extract is alkaline.

ESSENTIAL SALT OF THE ROUND-LEAF CORNEL.

This preparation of the round-leaf cornel, made according to the directions published by Count de Garraye, for making the essential salt of the Peruvian bark (by cold infusion and spontaneous evaporation), is a more efficacious and grateful tonic than any with which we are acquainted. It is, unquestionably, very superior as a tonic to the sulphate of quinine, and much more grateful to the palate and stomach; and in cases of debility, its exhibition is never followed by nausea and head-ache, which are so frequently occasioned by the sulphate of quinine, the Peruvian bark, and the bitter stomachics. The essential salt of the round-leaf cornel readily dissolves in wine, and in the proportion of three drachms to a quart of sound white wine—as sherry or Cape madeira, it forms a most excellent tonic medicine; and in the quantity of a small wine-glassful two or three times a day, is an efficacious remedy for general or local debility. It is a most valuable remedy for fluor albus, gleet, debility of the bladder, and relaxation of the rectum.

QUACKERY.

At the late Lancashire Assizes *Nanny Simpson*, aged 56, was indicted for *killing* Wm. Burkitt, by administering poison. Mr. Coltman, in his address to the Jury, stated that the prisoner was charged with having given the deceased a medicine, *certainly not with intent to injure him, but with a degree of rashness, misconduct, and negligence, that rendered* her amenable to the laws. It was proved that the deceased

had been in the Liverpool Infirmary, from which he was discharged cured, but in a very delicate state; that on the 1st of November he applied to the *Doctress* Nanny Simpson for an emetic, and she gave him something, which he took, and which proved to be a *mineral poison*, and the deceased expired the following day. The prisoner, it appeared, acted as a female quack, and distributed her nostrums to the ignorant and unwary from a cellar. The jury found her *guilty*. Mr. Justice Bayley remarked, that the prosecution was instituted to put a stop to *ignorant* persons dispensing and selling medicines of any sort. It was most dangerous, and could not be allowed. He therefore hoped that the notoriety which this case would obtain would answer the purpose intended; and with regard to the prisoner, he would take her daughter's recognizance, in the sum of 20*l.* that she should appear when called upon for judgment, but she must never more sell or dispose of any medicine; if she did, she would be called up for sentence, and the Court would deal severely with her.

The *learned* Doctors, J. and C. Jordan, late Jew pedlars, and proprietors of the *celebrated Cordial Balsam of Rakasiri*, and of the West London Medical Establishment, and the no less *learned* Mr. John Saint John Long, late miniature painter, the *celebrated curer* of consumption, will act wisely by attending to this warning.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.—The editors of a medical periodical work have published a long article in favour of the *science* of Animal Magnetism, from Richard Chenevix, who styles himself not only an Esq. but an F. S. and E. S. M. R. I. A. to which we may add, without any allusion to the editor of the journal, an A.S.S. which in honour to the scientific discoverer (Mesmer, whom Napoleon declared to be one of the greatest impostors that have appeared on the Continent within the last century) he denominates *Mesmerism!* "Squire Chenevix" commences his Dissertation with the declaration, that Animal Magnetism *is* true!!! (a *true* humbug?) and he concludes with the observation, that "before many years have elapsed, the most extraordinary event, in the whole history of *human* science, will be that Mesmerism ever could be doubted!!!" We are told the learned squire, physician, and metaphysician, Chenevix has determined to visit London, for the purpose of convincing the Royal College of Physicians, that Mesmer was a peculiarly favoured man, and that his system of charming away diseases by grimaces, gesticulations, and muscular motions, is true, and that a knowledge of this demi-metaphysical science, is of greater consequence in forming a physician than "even all the *collateral lights* of natural philosophy!!" The learned professor expects to be allowed to explain the *science* of Mesmerism at the evening meeting of the members of the Royal College of Physicians, and to be elected an *honorary* member!!! The metaphysician's visit to London, we suspect, will ruin the fee trade of Mr. John St. John Long, and the Balsam of Rakasiri trade of the *eminent* physicians to the West London Establishment, (Newgate?) Drs. J. and C. Jordan!!!

The professor of mesmerism undertakes to cure all diseases without any kind of medicine. Without the aid of an opiate he engages, by certain motions of the arms and hands, to put Sir Everard Home, or any other person, before or after taking a few bottles of wine, in a sound sleep. Without the use of a tonic or stimulant he will render the worn-out debauchee capable of dancing a quadrille for many hours together. His practice will prove fatal not only to the trade of chemists and druggists and of nostrums, but to the fee trade of the Fellows of the College of Humbugs!

MR. JOHN SAINT JOHN LONG, THE PRETENDED CURER OF PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.—The Editors of the John Bull Paper, in the pages of which this Quack has so frequently made a most imposing exhibition of his all-healing powers, have found it necessary to state that the paragraphs were *advertisements!!!* These *modest* puffs, so artfully composed as to have the appearance of editorial authority, were written by the Amanuensis, or partner of *Mr. John Saint John Long*, and paid for as advertisements!!! After this unfortunate exposé, what are we to think of the "puffs direct" which appeared in the Literary Gazette? Was Mr. Jerdan, the Editor, paid for writing them, and also for inserting them? Oh! shame, shame, where is thy blush! How much human misery have these puffs produced by inducing consumptive patients to undertake a long journey, to place themselves under the care of a man who is ignorant of the disease and of remedies, and who is not capable of distinguishing common catarrhal cough from pulmonary consumption. Several pthisical patients, who have been encouraged, at a great expense, which some could ill afford, to come to London, have in a few weeks returned in a coffin. It is really cruel in the extreme to sanction so infamous a traffic as that of tampering with the life and happiness of a fellow creature for the mere sake of lucre. This notoriously

impudent fellow continues to paragraph the low papers, the proprietors of which have no objection to any form of advertisement so that a certain sum is given with it, and to state, as a piece of intelligence coming from the editors, that his treatment of pulmonary consumption is uniformily successful, but not one person that has been cured of this disease can the artist produce. We will engage to produce fifty cases of pulmonary consumption in which his practice failed, and we will defy him to produce one in which it succeeded.

The learned artist's fee trade has lately fallen off to such an alarming extent, that he has found it necessary to extend his healing *arts* to the cure of other diseases. He has accordingly advertised a case of deafness which he has cured by an injection !!! A few months since he was under the care of a surgeon for this malady !!! We are told by a lady, who had dined with the artist by the entreaty of a demi-maniacal elderly lady, that an old corn which had long annoyed the Countess of Berkeley really disappeared during the time Mr. John Saint John Long was giving her the thoracic inunction !!! The artist is, therefore, a chiropedist !!!

Messrs. May v. *Doctors J. and C. Jordan,* PHYSICIANS *to the West-London Medical Establishment, and Proprietor of the* CELEBRATED BALSAM OF RAKASIRI, *&c. &c. &c. !!!*

"The groundly-learned physicians," (in the arts of trickery and deception) Doctors J. and C. Jordan, have lately evinced much ingenuity in their attempts to convince the ignorant part of the public, by whom their infamous trade is supported, that Miss May is actuated by dishonourable motives in adopting law proceedings against them, and that "they have been *most cruelly* misrepresented" in some police reports which have appeared in the *Times, Morning Herald,* and a few other papers, the Editors of which are not to be bribed, and who are so regardless of the interest of the proprietors, as to have no respect for their advertising friends. To neutralise the unfortunate exposure of their trade by Miss May, the quacks have employed an Old Bailey barrister, who is certainly as well versed in all the querks and sophistry of the law, or of *law* quackery, as his *respectable* clients are in the trickery of the nostrum trade, or *medical* quackery. The barrister accompanied one of the learned physicians to the police office in Great Marlborough Street, and with the modest eloquence peculiar to an Old Bailey barrister, addressed the sitting magistrate on the very "*cruel* attack" which had been made, not on Miss May, but on the *professional* and *moral* character of his respectable clients, the justly celebrated physicians, Doctors J. and C. Jordan !!! These learned physicians by their *great* discovery in medicine, had rendered their country essential benefit. The duty on their advertisements, and on their medicines, produced no less a sum annually than five thousand pounds to government !!!

Such is their high degree of respectability, that they have a house in Surrey-street, Blackfriars, and in Newman-street, Oxford-road, (no apartments in Newgate at present?) and the establishment of both is splendid! The charge of fraud preferred against these learned and highly respectable physicians, was most outrageous, and to him, (a man of the strictest feelings of honour and honesty) it was a matter of great surprise and great regret, that a magistrate who ought to be acquainted with law, if not with justice, should have paid the smallest attention to it, or indeed, should not on the onset, discover the *real* object of the complainant. Indict such highly respectable practitioners for a fraud! Surely, surely, never was advice more unjust. The practice of his learned clients was carried on *publicly,* and *under the sanction of a licence.* Miss May *purchased* the medicine, and she experienced great attention and kindness from the physicians!! Their trade was fair, and honourable, and strictly legal. The *object* of the ingenious orator's address was so evident to the magistrates, that they totally disregarded his harangue. Two or three reporters who *happened* to be present, by accident of course, were very intent on taking down the eulogium on the Doctors and their nostrum, which, with a little embellishment, found its way into a few of the daily papers, by means, as we have fully ascertained, of "*sovereign* influence!" The magistrates having declined to interfere, the learned barrister and his learned client left the office, and the latter really flattered himself, that, through the aid of his learned advocate, he had obtained a complete victory. A trade so productive to the legislature, and to the doctors, and, indeed, to the public at large (of mischief) is not cognizable by any law, human or divine! If these quacks take the title of M.D.

and give advice as physicians, are they not, in every sense of the word, impostors? If they sell a composition under the name of "*Balsam of Rakasiri,*" which does not contain a particle of the article, and in no respect similar to it; will the learned barrister have the effrontery to say, they are not practising a fraud?

If the pretended Balsam of Rakasiri be a poison in more than one-half the cases for the *cure* of which it is recommended, and in which the true Balsam Rakasiri would prove beneficial, will the learned barrister say that the trade is honourable and legal? If the *learned* Doctors demand five guineas for a few bottles of an article, under a fictitious name, which did not cost them as many shillings, will the *learned* counsel say that they are not guilty of imposition or fraud? We positively assert that the article contains no medicinal virtue superior to common gin, and that the contents of the five guinea case for Miss May did not cost them more than five shillings. Now we positively assert that the said *Doctors* J. & C. Jordan have no right to the title of physicians;—that the article they advertise under the name of Balsam Rakasiri is not the Balsam Rakasiri, and that its medicinal properties are in no respect similar to it, and that it is a poison in more than one-half of the list of diseases for which it is so highly extolled as a remedy. Counsellor Blubber may pronounce this article libellous: we most sincerely hope he will do it, and that his *respectable* and *learned* clients, relying on his powers of sophistry, will have courage to prosecute us for it. We shall have much pleasure in an opportunity publicly to prove the truth of our statements. Miss May was induced to purchase the trash, which does not, as we have stated, differ in its medicinal properties from common gin, in consequence of the *positive* assurance of the two *learned physicians*, Doctors J. & C. Jordan, that it would *effectually* cure her; and she purchased more packages of it, in consequence of their declaring, after the mockery of a consultation, that the effect it had in aggravating her malady, was so far favourable, that it showed it had reached the root of her complaint!! and that, if continued a few weeks longer, it would *entirely* eradicate it!!! Is not this tampering with the life of a fellow-creature for the mere sake of lucre? Can a trade more infamous exist even in a savage country?

We are glad so respectable an attorney as Mr. Cox has taken up the case of Miss May, and that he is resolved to carry it into court. We shall see if the learned counsel will be able, by his subtle law sophistry, to convince a British jury, that the traffic of his clients is honourable and legal.

The cause, we are told, will come on in the Court of King's Bench in May. The medicine has been analysed by a respectable chemist, and much important evidence has already been volunteered, and much more will, no doubt, be tendered. The learned doctors are fast in a trap, from which Prince Hohenloe alone can liberate them. The Rakasiri trade is, thanks to Miss May and her respectable solicitor, drawing to a close. The quacks are already terribly afflicted with the malady, for the cure of which their nostrum is most highly recommended as an infallible remedy, viz. general nervousness. One of them lately observed to his agent, that his brother was become so very nervous, that he had determined to travel. The agent, smiling, observed, "Your brother *nervous!* why your medicine is recommended more for the cure of nervousness than any other complaint!"—"Ah, so it is," replied the *learned* doctor, with a vulgar laugh, "but *you* know, we *doctors* never takes our own stuff!"

BOYCE'S INFALLIBLE REMEDY FOR CHILBLAINS, SCALDS AND BURNS.—This article, made by Mr. Boyce of Egham, who styles himself *a chemist*, has lately been advertised, for the cure of chilblains, scalds, and burns. In his address to the public, the *chemist* asserts the "*greater part* of the *various* applications in *general* use aggravate rather than remove chilblains, their *harsh* and *irritating* qualities rendering the skin more tender and liable to break. It must, therefore," of course, "be *highly gratifying* to know, that a remedy has been discovered; one single application of which will allay their distressing itching, produce a pleasing coolness, and make them less tender, and in three days effect a cure." This infallible remedy we find, on examination, to be the camphorated lead ointment, very generally sold throughout this country under the name of "*Anquintum,*" and has for many years been a popular remedy for chilblains, burns, and scalds. For superficial chilblains, scalds, and burns, this composition is, doubtless, a good remedy; but when the mischief is deep or extensive, there is always a tendency to mortification, which the application of any preparation of lead would assuredly increase. For slight superficial chilblains on the fingers, we would recommend this ointment; but for chilblains in the feet, however superficial, we would condemn its use. We must do the proprietor the justice to say, that he has not followed the example of nostrum-mongers in general, in putting an exorbitant price on his nostrum.

POWELL'S BALSAM OF ANISEED.—This nostrum has been very industriously advertised as an infallible remedy for "coughs, colds, shortness of breath, asthma, &c." The proprietor, who styles himself a "*chemist and druggist*," assures the public, in his dissertation on its wonderful virtues, that it possesses "the extraordinary property of *immediately* relieving coughs, colds, hoarseness, difficulty of breathing, and huskiness in the throat;" and that it operates by dissolving the congealed phlegm, and, consequently, causes a free expectoration. "In asthma, chronic coughs, difficulty of breathing, &c." says the chemist and druggist, "its effects are so wonderful, that no pen," (not the *steal* pen of Dr. Graham, the proprietor of a remedy for cancer and epilepsy, and author of a Modern Domestic Medicine, and *Sure* Methods of Prolonging Life?) "can describe."!!! Now the complaints for the cure of which this wonderful remedy is so highly extolled, are mere symptoms; and that, too, of diseases opposite in their nature. Cough is a symptom of inflammation, of nervous excitement, and, in elderly asthmatics, or in the last stage of a condition of the viscera of the chest, which is in winter attended with cough, is an effort of nature to unload the air-vessels of phlegm. In the latter case, a remedy capable of allaying the cough, as a powerful opiate, would, indeed, terminate the cough by terminating life. Many a person, with such a cough, has been hurried to his long home by an opiate. The same may be said of hoarseness, huskiness, and difficulty of breathing. Even when these affections are symptomatic of inflammatory excitement, in which it is desirable to allay irritation, an opiate, by checking expectoration, and accelerating the circulation, although it may succeed in allaying cough, often increases the inflammation; and many thousands, by trusting to such a remedy, lose their lives annually in this country.

By experienced practitioners, anodyne medicines, in cases of inflammatory affections of the lungs, &c., are only employed as an *auxiliary*, and never exhibited in cases of debility. The assertion that the balsam of aniseed promotes expectoration by *dissolving* coagulated phlegm, is nonsense. This nostrum we find to be a strong opiate, disguised by liquorice and the essential oil of aniseed. It is, in fact, very similar to the composition which was sold, fifty or sixty years since, under the name of the Asthmatic Elixir, and afterwards, with some slight alteration, under that of Paregoric Elixir. Laudanum, with the oil of aniseeds, will produce the same effects. Such an article, taken on the first attack of cough, arising from inflammatory action in the membrane of the windpipe, may certainly succeed in removing the cause, and when it produces perspiration may prevent its recurrence; but when cough is the consequence of inflammation of the pleura, or of the substance of the lungs, although, as we have observed, it may allay cough, in will assuredly increase the inflammation, and if the patient should be encouraged to persevere in its use, from the apparent beneficial effect on the cough, for three or four days, the inflammation will probably so far have advanced in that time, as to endanger life. Even in a case of cough most favourable for such a remedy, if it should not succeed in producing perspiration, it will probably, by increasing fever and constipating the bowels, convert a trifling degree of inflammation of the membrane lining the wind-pipe into pleurisy or inflammation of the lungs. These, most learned Proprietor, we are confident, are facts which no impartial practitioner of any experience will deny. We must do the Proprietor the justice to say, that his nostrum is more entitled to the name of the Balsam of *Aniseed*, than the Balsam of Horehound, or the Balsam of Honey, is to the names they bear, for it is certainly flavoured with the oil of aniseed, whereas the two latter nostrums do not contain a particle of the articles of which they are represented by the proprietors as preparations.

MIDWIFERY.

TEDIOUS LABOUR, &c.

Mr. Wakley has published a few cases of tedious labour and of flooding, communicated by Mr. Kimbell, a scientific surgeon, of Knowle in Warwickshire, in which the ergot of rye was successfully administered. "No medicine," says Mr. Kimbell, "has yet been discovered that will, in my opinion, be found more certain in its action, or more beneficial to the community, than the 'secale cornutum,' if administered in proper cases, and at proper times. My experience of *its beneficial effects* has thoroughly convinced me of its great utility

in the most important and disagreeable cases of midwifery. The cases I have to adduce will, I think, fully prove the truth of the following propositions:—

1st. That it will generally supersede the necessity of using the vectis, or forceps.

2d. That when the placenta is not attached over the os uteri, and there is a predisposition in the uterus to act, rupturing the membranes, and administering the ergot of rye will, in almost every case, check hæmorrhage before labour.

3dly. That though many women, in spite of the caution and efforts of the accoucheur, will always have hæmorrhage after labour, the administration of this medicine before labour will generally prevent it."

The cases are so very similar to those we have published in a late Number, in which the ergot had succeeded, that we consider it unnecessary to copy them. Mr. Gaskell, an eminent surgeon of Chelsea, has also published "a case of the successful employment of the ergot of rye in tedious labour." The labour having remained nearly stationary for upwards of a day, evidently in consequence of a "want of energetic uterine action," Mr. Gaskell determined on exhibiting the ergot of rye. He directed half a drachm coarsely powdered to be infused in two and a half ounces of barley water for fifteen minutes, which was given without being strained. In eight minutes the uterus began to act powerfully; and in fifteen minutes from the time of administering the remedy the child was born, the placenta followed almost immediately, and the patient recovered without a bad symptom.

FLOODING AFTER DELIVERY.

Dr. Campbell, of Boulogne, informs us, that lemon juice injected cold into the uterus, in case of flooding after delivery, is become a common practice in Paris, and that it has proved very successful.

MISCELLANEOUS.

COMPARATIVE SALUBRITY OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES OF ENGLAND.

THE following interesting observations, relating to the salubrity of different districts in England, are founded on extracts from the Parliamentary Returns, laid before a Committee of the House of Commons. The counties in which the mortality was above the average were, Middlesex, where it was 1 in 36; Kent, where it was 1 in 41; Warwickshire, where it was 1 in 42; Cambridgeshire, where it was 1 in 44; Essex, where it was also 1 in 44; Surrey, where it was 1 in 45; the East Riding of Yorkshire, where it was 1 in 47; Lancashire, where it was 1 in 48.

Of these eight counties, four are subject to agues; namely, Kent, Essex, Cambridgeshire, and the East Riding of Yorkshire, comprising all the counties of that description, except Lincolnshire, in which the mortality was below the average; for it was 1 in 45, the average being 1 in 58·7. The smaller degree of mortality in this last is, no doubt, owing to the great proportion which the dry and upland part of this county bears to the fenny districts. That there

is a great difference in the mortality in these, is proved by their respective returns. The mortality in the town of Boston, for instance, which is situated in the fens, is 1 in 27; whereas that of Stamford, which is in the dry upland division, is 1 in 50.

It may be asked, whence arises the greater mortality of the other four counties, of which the rate is above the average? With regard to Middlesex, it is imputable, no doubt, to the various circumstances adverse to health peculiar to the metropolis; such as the more intemperate habits of life, and perhaps still more the unfavourable influence of the air of this great city, particularly on young children. It is worthy of remark, however, that London has of late years been improving in salubrity; for it appears by the bills of mortality, that the burials invariably and considerably exceeded the christenings, till a few years before the close of the last century; whereas, since that time, the christenings have generally exceeded the burials. This may, in part, be ascribed to vaccination; but it cannot be entirely owing to it, for the decrease of burials took place some years before that admirable discovery.

The first year on the records of the bills of mortality, in which the births exceeded the burials in the metropolis was 1790. To the great diminution of mortality among young children, so as to amount now to little more than one-half of what it was as late as the middle of the last century, we have already adverted. In further proof of the improving health of London, it is stated in the Parliamentary Report, that the annual mortality in 1700 was 1 in 25; in 1750, 1 in 21; in 1801, and the four succeeding years, 1 in 35; and in 1810, 1 in 38. The increased mortality in the middle of the last century, has been imputed to the great abuse of spirituous liquors, which was checked about that time by the imposition of high duties. The other causes of superior health seem to consist in a general improvement in the habits of life, particularly with regard to ventilation and cleanliness, a more ample supply of water, greater abundance and better quality of food, the improved state of medicine, and the better management of children. The high proportion of mortality in Surrey is no doubt owing to its containing a portion of the metropolis, consisting of a population of 170,000, which is more than one-half of the whole county.

The high rate of mortality in Warwickshire seems at first sight the most difficult to be accounted for, the air of this part of the kingdom being very salubrious. It is, no doubt, owing to the town of Birmingham being situated here, for it comprises two-fifths of the population; and the mortality of the average of the last ten years is 1 in 34. The mortality in this town is greater than in Manchester, Leeds, or Norwich. The operations in metal have been alleged as the cause of this; but it is much more probably owing to the want of attention to cleanliness and ventilation, particularly with regard to the streets, which are very narrow and dirty. With regard to Lancashire, where the mortality is somewhat above the average, the number of large towns and extensive manufactories, affording a greater proportion of artisans to rural inhabitants than in any other county,

except those in which the metropolis is situated, is certainly the cause of this; for the air is very salubrious, and the greater quantity and cheapness of fuel is extremely friendly to life, health, and comfort. It is, probably, owing to this advantage, that the inhabitants of this county, particularly the females, have become noted for their well-formed persons and comely countenances, forming a contrast with those of Buckinghamshire, where the fuel was extremely scanty and high priced before the late extension of the inland navigation, so that the labouring classes suffered peculiar hardships from this privation, and are of a stature so inferior, that the militia men are, by Act of Parliament, admissible at a lower standard than in the rest of England. The Report of Manchester, which is the second town in England in point of population, forms an exception to the rest of Lancashire, for the mortality there, on the average of the last ten years, was 1 in 58, and in 1811, 1 in 74: but that of Liverpool was 1 in 34 on the average of ten years, and 1 in 30 in 1811. In the former town we have another pleasing picture of the progressive improvement of health; for it is stated, by the late Dr. Percival, that in 1757, the annual mortality of Manchester was 1 in 25-7; and in 1770, 1 in 28, although at the former period the population was not quite one-fourth, and at a later period not one-half the present amount. This improvement of health is clearly imputable to certain regulations of police, particularly with respect to ventilation, recommended and introduced by the above-mentioned benevolent, enlightened, and active physician. The like progressive amelioration of health is deducible from these public documents with respect to the whole kingdom, and which, in all probability, we shall, on a future occasion, lay before our readers.

DISSECTION OF HUMAN BODIES.

The pamphlet just published, called "*An Address to the Public, drawn from Nature and Religion, against the unlimited Dissection of Human Bodies*," appears to have been written as guidance for legislative enactments. The subject is openly discussed; the arguments deduced from nature and the most esteemed records, sacred and profane. The human heart is made the judge; and what has been said of matters of taste, poetry and painting, may be applied to anatomical and surgical labours—must be determined, not by authors and professors, but by those whom it most concerns—human beings. The feelings, from the commencement of human nature to the end of time, are unalterable, either by colleges or parliaments.

The author observes: "I wish not to extend the subject, having said, I think, sufficient to enforce the propriety of not suffering the body of that noble creature, man, to be dishonoured, nor deprived of due obsequies. The intimate connexion between the church-yard and the dissecting-table, hitherto has been notorious. Of course, what I have said is not irrelevant: my design was to break the connexion for ever, which, I trust, I have fully accomplished.

"Surgery," he observes, "should be esteemed and cherished; and after the allowance of suitable honours, rest satisfied, and fall into its proper rank, with wholesome restrictions. We cannot agree with surgeons, that we were made for the knife. In another age a more

successful practice of medicine will diminish the estimation of surgery; to save a limb will be thought superior to its amputation.

"Anatomy, to a degree, is necessary to the practice of medicine and surgery; but it should be used as caviare, not as carrion.

"Bodies should be husbanded, not wasted.

"The origin of anatomy, and its progress in this country, is given with proper attributes to surgery; discriminating its honours from its avarice and coxcombry.

"The supply of subjects is next considered, without moving the Court of King's Bench for writs of habeas corpus; the opinion of various authors given; the trade of hospital surgeons exposed; the oppression of the surgical and medical halls and colleges shown.

"The various recommendations to obtain subjects enumerated, and economy in dissection recommended as the best resource against scantiness.

"An observance of the living laws of the frame, in practice, is not only necessary, but preferable to dissection. The inutility of dissections, in many complaints, exhibited.

"The public utility; the necessity of superseding the *London monopolies*. The danger of depôts of death, or anatomical shambles; trusting that we have not sunk, as yet, so deep in the low dregs of avarice and corruption, to sanction the debasement of the Image of the Almighty. Enlarging the facilities of dissection, or increasing the market for dead flesh, will brutalize society.

"The late impression of terror in the public mind is noticed; the execution of Burke, at Edinburgh, (for the murders,) on the 28th of Janury, 1829. The curses and hisses of detestation displayed the public feeling; and Knox, the receiver, came in for his share of reprobation. Let this be warning to other wholesale anatomists." He concludes,

"I have said, that when recommendations make no impression, circumstances will terrify the public, and move senates. May the evidence of trading anatomists be received with caution, and the tiger acts of Burke produce wise and humane regulations."

This little work appears to be an announcement of a larger one from the author.

PRESERVATION OF HERBS.

It has long been a general complaint, not only in England, but throughout the continent, that the herbs sold by herbalists, even a few months after they have been dried, are more or less musty, and not unfrequently mouldy; whilst those which are not much in use are frequently perished, in consequence of the dealers not getting in a fresh stock annually. Of late years, the herbalists of North America have been very particular in collecting their herbs when their medical virtues are in greatest perfection; and in order that they may not undergo any decomposition by gradually drying, or long exposure to the air, they dry them generally in a kiln; and as soon as they are perfectly dried, they are, by means of a powerful press, formed into a cake, so that the external surface only is exposed to the air. By this means, a quantity that would fill a large hop-sack is reduced nearly to the size of half a bushel, and after having been kept two or three years, the herb is as fresh as when first dried. The lobelia syphilitica, and the lobelia inflata, we have lately received from America is preserved in this manner.

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PRACTICAL MEDICINE.

FOR the following valuable practical remarks on Prussic Acid, Extreme Cold, Bleeding, Febrile Affections of the Liver and Spleen, we are indebted to the experienced and scientific Dr. Kinglake, of Taunton.

Prussic Acid.—This powerful medicinal agent occasionally produces extraordinary sedative effects, in allaying the irregular actions of vital power, termed spasm. In the extreme difficulty of respiration, which is apt suddenly to occur in persons suffering from habitual asthma, it appears to exert an appeasing influence, that very directly and effectually relieves. In doses, from one to three drops in a wine-glassful of either camphorated mixture or pure water, repeated every hour, pending the urgency of the paroxysmal violence, it will be likely to afford speedy and even lasting relief.

It was thus given in a case in which bleeding, blistering, sulphuric æther, hyoscyamus, opium, and the usual means of assistance had wholly failed, with signal benefit. The patient, who was a female of about fifty years of age, extremely corpulent, and had been subject to severe fits of asthmatic difficulty of breathing for many years, took the Prussic acid in doses of two drops, at intervals of two hours, if my recollection be correct, during the continuance of the spasmodically oppressed breathing; afterwards twice a-day, for a short time, and had no further return of the ailment, at least not any that occasioned alarm or solicitude.

The speedy and efficient action of Prussic acid in spasmodic affections of the pulmonary organs, probably results from its previous sedative impression on the stomach, from whence it is sympathetically transferred to the vital power of the lungs, which seems to be so affected as to be enabled to resume the calm and steady action of health.

If Prussic acid can, through the medium of stomachic sympathy, salutarily restrain and adjust a spasmodically disordered state of vital action obtaining in the pulmonary structure, it may, by parity of reason, be capable of producing a similar effect in other viscera and textures, and thus prove to be an agent of extensive and efficient power.

In inflammatory states of pulmonary disease, as in phthisis pulmonaris (consumption of the lungs), its effect is more equivocal than in those of the spasmodic kind. The inflammatory condition of vital action is in its nature less transient than the spasmodic state, and therefore not so accessible to direct medicinal influence. As in all other instances of trying the effect of powerful remedies, the Prussic acid should not be long continued if the benefit sought to be obtained be not speedily produced. If its use be unduly protracted, the system may become so saturated with its power as to occasion irreparable mischief, without any reasonable probability of its affording the desired aid.

Deficient Intestinal Evacuations.—There is, perhaps, no cause of eventual disease more insidious or more certain in its progress than

that of the formality of alvine discharges without the reality of relief that should be afforded by them. A daily evacuation may seem to be all that is necessary, but the quantity voided can alone decide the question of sufficiency. If it be inadequate to clearing the intestinal canal of all that is excrementitious, and which ought to be seasonably removed, it is deceptious, and may permit accumulations and even obstructions to occur of the most injurious and difficult nature. Scybalous accumulations will often take place in the sigmoid flexure of the colon, and in the colon itself, over which the more liquid and transmissible contents of the bowels may daily press. This has actually occurred in numerous instances in my experience, in which much eventual incumbrance and complicated affection of the digestive organs ensued.

It not unfrequently lays the foundation of the worst forms of typhus and other fevers, which will not be overcome until the bowels have been perseveringly and fully evacuated. Hence the efficacy of purgative medicines agreeably to the practice adopted by Dr. Hamilton. The discharges produced by cathartic medicine of the more active kind, duly continued, are often enormous; such indeed as could not have been recently amassed, but must have been detained and stored probably for several weeks previously to the occurring illness, whether directly intestinal or febrile, resulting from it.

A case has very lately fallen under my observation, in which feculent accumulations in the intestines, pending what was considered as a regular state of the bowels, had occurred to an almost incredible extent. Under a long continued action of purgative medicine, concreted substances, differing in bulk but equally indurated, were finally discharged, in the alleged quantity of at least four quarts. Those hardened masses had a stale aspect; and, although but little or no ailment was evinced whilst they were retained, the sequel was irreparable indigestion, and after the lapse of a few months, destructive pulmonary consumption.

The remedy in those cases is, to secure by suitable aperient medicine, if not occurring naturally, an ample relieving evacuation from the bowels, either daily, or at least at intervals sufficiently short effectually to obviate the hurtful detentions arising from insufficient action, however delusively frequent, of the peristaltic or contractile power of the bowels.

The sedative influence of extreme cold.—A sudden transition from a temperature of fifty to thirty degrees is trying to irritable and susceptible states of vital power. In the higher grades of temperature, such as from fifty to eighty, immoderate excitement is experienced; but when that which is congenial is abruptly depressed so low as not to be sufficiently stimulant for healthy action, the sedative effect is often powerfully manifested throughout the whole system, and when disproportionately and especially on the stomach or any other vital organ, the result is afflicting, and often alarming. A case of this description recently occurred to the writer, in the instance of a middle-aged man, in whom vital power appeared to be almost extinguished at the stomach. The patient was at first nearly speechless *and unconscious*; but when he became intelligibly articulate, pain

was referred to the region of the stomach. The action of the heart was almost suspended. No distinct pulsation could be discovered in the wrist, and not more than a tremulous motion in the heart.

Stimulants of the most powerful kind, together with a temperature at seventy, and mustard cataplasms to the stomach and feet, were unavailing in exciting the depressed arterial action, and in restoring the retarded circulation to the surface.

After the lapse of forty-eight hours, the general temperature, less from natural rallying than from the agency of exciting means, began very feebly and slowly to be reinstated. This advantage, by brisk friction, vesication over the stomach and on the lower extremities, was improved, until it ultimately attained the healthful standard. The sedative effect of extreme cold, or even sudden changes from high to low temperature, may be speedily destructive of life. In the case recited, that result would most probably have ensued, had it not been seasonably obviated by the most efficient means of counteraction.

The natural temperature of the circulating fluids is about ninety-eight degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer, the atmospheric heat at the freezing point is thirty-two, but in intense frost in the latitude of England, such as has lately occurred, the depression has been as low as sixteen, making a difference in the relative animal and atmospheric temperatures of eighty-two degrees. This vast deficiency is supplied by the vital processes incessantly obtaining, and if it could not be adequately generated, disease and death itself would be the inevitable consequence. On those occasions, suitable clothing, muscular exertion, and alcoholic excitement are the most appropriate and effective safeguards; and without them there can be no sufficient immunity against the sedative and destructive agency of extreme cold.

Bleeding ad deliquium, (to faintness.) — This practice is too flippant; and if it should become popularly adopted, it is not difficult to foresee that its effects may be most disastrous. The morbid conditions of vital power are not of frequent occurrence that require such a prostrating extent of vascular depletion; and if the case for which the unmeasured freedom in blood-letting be instituted, should not be of an inflammatory nature or tendency, but sheerly that of simple irritation, the result would in every such instance, be more likely to prove injurious than beneficial.

The depression of vital energy, arising from an abstraction of blood that would so far diminish the action of the heart as to induce fainting, impairs, and often wholly disables, the salutary disposition to re-action for being duly exerted. The consequence of this inability is an unequal as well as an unwieldly distribution of the circulating fluids, inducing local plethora, universal oppression, scanty and vitiated secretions, general torpor and serous effusions. These morbid conditions are not less afflicting than untractable, and therefore should be cautiously avoided rather than fearlessly incurred.

In high and unyielding inflammatory action, blood might indeed be safely taken away to the extent of producing a sense of faintness. Pending this state, the inflammatory excitement may possibly be overcome; but even here, there would be danger if adequate reaction were *not seasonably* to ensue. To insure this salutary sequel,

the large abstraction of blood should be undergone in the sitting and not in the recumbent position. If the heart be disabled in its contractile power, when the patient is in the horizontal position, no relief can be afforded by lying back, as in the instance where a similar effect has arisen in the sitting posture. Inattention to this necessary precaution must always endanger a bleeding *ad deliquium*, as it is familiarly phrased, becoming one *ad mortem*.

That this mortal issue may happen in almost any instance is conceivable; and that it actually has on one occasion, my own observation has unequivocally attested. The case referred to was that of a hale middle-aged man, who had been incautiously bled in the sitting posture to the amount of at least two quarts, with a view to inducing faintness. That consequence however did not ensue, but the heart was so enfeebled by the depletion as to be rendered wholly unequal to its circulating function; and after a few days' tremulous motion of that organ, rather than effective contraction, it altogether ceased to act.

Febrile Mortality.—Fevers may destroy either by sedative or re-active influence. If the onset be so overpowering as to occasion a degree of collapse or supension of vital energy, that will not admit of being excited by the inherent provision for re-active exertion, life will cease. This is not often the case; but it not unfrequently occurs, that the sedative effect of the disordering or morbific cause is not sufficiently overcome by the restoring effort of vital power. In those cases, much additional and complicated ailment accrues, and the sequel of the disease is proportionately anomalous, and difficult to be subdued, On the contrary, the energies of life are often so intensely excited and developed by the stimulus of diseased action, as to induce a re-active violence that may not only derange but suspend and even destroy the animal functions of life.

Febrile affections, resulting from the noxious power of miasmal agency, may rapidly extinguish life by a collapsing depression of its active energies, in which, no re-active exertion can arise, whilst the excessive stimulus of concentrated insolation may almost instantly so disable and exhaust vital power as to cause its early and inevitable extinction.

In these opposite states of extreme morbid influence, the remedial indication would be, in the one case to supply the deficient excitement, in the other, to reduce that which is dangerously immoderate. The one would require internal stimulants and high temperature, the other shade, and refrigerating the cutaneous surface by aqueous ablution.

Appropriate Bleeding.—It is of the utmost practical importance to carry this powerful remedy to its most salutary extent. If it be insufficiently employed, the probable consequence would be either gangrene or suppuration; if in excess, the result may be serous effusion, and irrecoverable debility. The object is to remove that which occasions and sustains hurtful distension and excitement; beyond that point, injury instead of benefit would be produced. The temperamental condition of the constitutional strength will best determine how far bleeding may be safely and advantageously extended, and where it should be finally and absolutely limited.

The sanguineous and irritable temperament will require and bear a

larger abstraction of blood than that of the torpid and serous character. The available resources of the irritable temperament are commensurate with life itself, and may be elicited and brought into action to an extent far beyond what can be effected in the more torpid and inactive state of excitability. Not only bleeding, but other modes of remedy, whether the object be to increase or diminish the action of vital power, should be governed by the existing capability for being affected. Where this circumstance is not duly regarded, uncertainty, confusion, and error of the most serious nature may arise, from the wayward and undefined agency of the means instituted to procure relief.

Much ambiguity and inconclusiveness necessarily present in directing the practice of a speculative art like that of medical treatment; yet there are landmarks which should be incessantly kept in view, as infallible guides in conducting to the best possible termination. Of this kind of direction is that which is derived from an accurate knowledge as to constitutional peculiarity and temperamental susceptibility for being generally and specifically affected either by morbid or remedial agency.

Animal Existence.—This condition of material arrangement results from an appropriate combination of vital, mechanical, and chemical agencies. The vital influence is more especially exerted in the nervous function; the mechanical, in the vascular and muscular offices; the chemical, in arranging and compounding the various secreted and circulating fluids.

The provision for these several influences is primordeal, inherent, and uniformly effective, if not impeded by adventitious and morbid occurrences. The vital influence is the substratum on which the mechanical and chemical agencies are founded, and to which it imparts the peculiar phenomena and modification of animal existence. The mechanical and chemical appendages of vital power possess properties different from those which exist in inanimate matter, and which are derived from the animated circumstances in which they originate. In animal life, therefore, mechanism and chemistry must be sought in the pecular conditions by which those several states of motive power and efficiency are characterized and distinguished. They may be affirmed to be co-essentials, coadjutors, and correlatives of each other. The one could not exist without the other, and the union of the whole constitutes the specific capability.

Febrile Affection.—Whether this disease be excitive or congestive, arterial or venous; whether arising from inordinate arterial action or oppressive venous plenitude, evacuations in the first instance are equally necessary. If, however, after these have been largely effected, neither excitement in the one case, nor oppression in the other, should be sufficiently diminished, other and more efficient means should be tried for obviating the eventual danger of a protracted course of either exhausting irritation or mortal depression of vital power.

The remedy on those occasions would be to produce a change in the existing state of vital action, by the peculiarly pervading and alterative influence of mercurial excitement, urged to the point of ptyalism. This is suitably effected by giving three grains of calomel, with half a grain of opium and two grains of antimonial powder, every six

hours, until that result be obtained. The renovating and benefical agency of mercury in the morbidly worn and vitiated states of vital action, induced by long-continued febrile ailment, is strikingly manifested. It seems to superinduce its own specific excitement on the wreck of that which is diseased, and thus to lay the foundation of speedy and effectual convalescence.

Liver and Spleen.—These two organs are probably sanguineous reservoirs, and are not uniformly active in transmitting the circulating fluids. Blood incessantly passes through them, but in so slow a manner as to restrain the circulating impetus, imposing on it the regulated and measured transit that is equally necessary to a healthful state of the general circulation, and to that of the biliary secretion. The circulating current finds in the peculiarly voluminous and tortuous vascularity of the splenetic and hepatic structures, a moderating repression to its unimpeded rapidity, by which the requisite materials as well as suitable time are furnished for supplying the bilious fluid.

The biliary composition seems essential to a nutritive assimilation of alimentary substances. When it is either deficient or vitiated, inadequate nourishment is rendered to the system, and rapid emaciation ensues. The affections of the liver, in which its transmitting function is impaired, are participated by the spleen. Plethoric distension and painful repletion are experienced in the left side in those cases, more commonly than in the right. Hence the delusion frequently arising in estimating hepatic disease. An obstructed and disordered state of the liver is often felt more painfully in the splenetic than in the hepatic region, owing to redundant and insufficiently transmitted blood in the spleen. The leading, and indeed the only effectual remedy in those cases is small and repeated bleedings, at longer or shorter intervals, according to the exigency of attending circumstances, accompanied with moderate purgation and alterative doses of mercury. Brisk friction also over the abdomen, with the assiduity and perseverance occasionally practised in scrofulous affections of the joints, may be employed with incalculable benefit.—(*To be continued.*)

Taunton, April 4.

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTE of HEALTH.

THE FOURTH CASE OF ST. VITUS'S DANCE.

(Communicated by a Medical Friend to Dr. HARRISON, and by him to the GAZETTE of HEALTH.)

A. B. a delicate girl only eight years old, and four feet nine inches in height, had menstruated regularly during the four preceding months. The mammæ are already imperfectly evolved. Some menstrual efforts had taken place at the age of six years, these were unattended with any perceptible derangement.

"To me," the writer observes, "it appeared a fair opportunity of ascertaining whether this might not decide (as far as a single case could decide) the late disputes on the Continent, respecting the use of the cerebellum. In the present instance, along with the premature development of the most important sexual function, there *existed a total* loss of control over the voluntary muscles. The *cerebellum then may* be essentially connected with the sexual

functions, as has been supposed by Gall and Spurzheim, and yet be the organ principally controlling the voluntary muscles.

"On examining that part of the occiput covering the cerebellum, it was found rather large, and the heat very perceptibly greater than at any other part of the head. It was resolved therefore (all the usual means having been previously employed without any benefit) to try the effect of repeated local bleeding, together with the continued application of cold, attention being paid to the state of the bowels.

"Under this mode of treatment the patient recovered in the space of a month, not the slightest spasm remaining. The cessation of the spasms was attended with a cessation of the menstrual discharge. She remained perfectly well during eight months. At the end of this time menstruation again took place, and along with it a return of the spasmodic affection.

"Similar means were resorted to, and similar effects have followed."

REMARKS BY DR. HARRISON.—In this case, although the patient had only attained her eighth year, the constitution was already considerably evolved. The mammæ were in some degree enlarged, and for the preceding four months she had regularly menstruated. Eight months afterwards the catamenia and spasms returned and disappeared together. Efforts to menstruate had also been observed when she was only six years of age.

The uterine system, the most influential of the female organs, is liable to many accidents and derangements which have a tendency to disturb and injure its functions, and extend a morbid action over the frame. In early life this viscus and its appendages are small and quiescent. As the body grows, they not only enlarge along with it, but undergo extraordinary modifications to fit them for the business of procreation, and to nourish the tender fœtus. The full development of the sexual organs occupies several of the earlier years. Towards the decline of life, they are destined to undergo ulterior changes, which incapacitate them from continuing to discharge their proper offices. These two periods constitute the most important eras in female life, and lay the foundation of many distressing ailments. The maturation of the generative members takes place at different ages in different countries, and with different individuals. In England the bodily organization is seldom fully expanded before the fourteenth year or later. Its completion is characterised by many constitutional evolutions. The most remarkable are displayed in the uterus and ovaria: in the former, periodical discharges occur of a peculiar nature: in the latter, a vivifying fluid is generated, which, being mixed with the male semen, forms the rudiments of the human embryo.

When the mammæ enlarge, and the uterine organs display their functions prematurely, the health generally suffers in consequence of the unnatural changes. We are wholly ignorant of the methods employed by nature to effect these constitutional alterations. They are however obviously attended with a partial determination of blood, and dilation of the implicated vessels. But by what sacred

contrivances and previous arrangements their caliber is increased for these important purposes we know not. It is, however, certain, that whenever the natural evolutions of any part take place unseasonably, irregular efforts ensue, and disorders are set up in the same organs. Of this remark, we find the most striking and unexceptionable illustrations in contemplating the morbid phenomena which follow sudden changes in departments of the human frame lying under our immediate cognizance. We find, moreover, that so long as the various parts of the body expand simultaneously, they maintain a just relation to one another, and an harmonious co-operation is preserved. No morbid determinations ensue. No disproportioned growth is observed. No disorders of irregular formation occur. The constitution increases progressively, and the corporeal evolutions appear in regular succession. When the body enlarges in some parts faster than in others, the natural concordance is interrupted, and confusion prevails in the system. This derangement lays the foundation of numerous maladies. A precocity in the sexual organs is the fertile source of nervous complaints. The constitution, subjected to the powerful agency of a new stimulus before the stamina are prepared to receive its impulse, suffers from the inordinate operation superinduced. In the present instance the uterine, and probably the ovarial functions also, were brought into play before the due season. The irritation thus produced acting upon the nervous fibrils of the sexual members, and being conveyed from them to the spinal chord or organ of motion, occasioned the choroid agitations displayed in this case.

Many examples of mania, as well as of epilepsy, hysteria, and other convulsive maladies, originating in the sexual viscera, are upon record. Although the exciting cause operates first upon these organs, its influence is extended from them to the nerves of voluntary motion, and is moreover occasionally transmitted along the spinal marrow to the brain. Here, by disturbing the sensorium commune, the mind is made to participate in the affection: this shows itself in different degrees of temporary or more permanent derangement. It is of great importance in practice to distinguish this variety from the other species with which it is too generally confounded. I have had occasion to witness the erroneous notions, in this respect, of medical men, and their employment of remedies to the head; when the epileptic paroxysm, for example, originated in the teeth, the digestive organs, or other remote part. In a recent case of this sort, which had been treated with leeches, blisters, and cold affusions upon the head, I discovered that the mother was in a state of pregnancy. No sooner had another wet-nurse been substituted for the natural one, than the complaint disappeared, affording a convincing proof that the epileptic symptoms originated in unwholesome food.

The ingenious writer of the present case seems inclined to attribute the chorea and early menstruations to a morbid condition of the cerebellum, because he found the capillitium over it hotter externally than the surrounding scalp. This source of convulsions has lately been advocated by learned and able pathologists. It is

a question which experience can alone determine. In the mean time, we may observe, that, although the occiput was preternaturally heated, it does not follow that the cerebellum was the seat of chorea. I am not aware that increased action of the encephalon, or its members, necessarily leads to any augmented warmth in the part exercised. According to my views of chorea, the disorder in this instance is to be looked for in the generative system rather than elsewhere. These important organs were prematurely evolved, and called into inordinate action before the constitutional energies were sufficiently matured and invigorated to bear the new stimulus with impunity. Hence they gave way to causes which, under more favourable circumstances, would not have produced any morbid impression or disturbance. Besides, as means were employed at the same time to regulate the bowels, I am inclined to impute her cure to them, rather than to the *local* application of leeches, and cold applications to the occiput. Moreover, as the chorea and uterine evacuation disappeared simultaneously, I think the choroid manifestations only left her on the irregular movements of the uterus ceasing to agitate the frame.

OF PUERPERAL CONVULSIONS.

Having concluded the few remarks which I proposed to make on the above case, I now proceed to another malady of the uterine system, still involved in great obscurity. Many of its leading symptoms bear such a striking resemblance to the preceding case, as to justify their being placed together, and to encourage a reasonable expectation that, by considering them in this way, they will mutually illustrate one another.

The latter disorder, generally called *puerperal convulsions*, having bereaved many husbands of dear and affectionate wives, claims our anxious solicitude. Moreover, by depriving the British people of an amiable Princess, it lately plunged a whole nation into the deepest misery and affliction. Though always an attendant upon parturition, it sometimes precedes, sometimes follows that interesting event. The attack is sudden, and generally unexpected. The symptoms are peculiarly violent, imitating hysteria or epilepsy, but they are much more extravagant and distressing than either. Sometimes it appears under the semblance of general convulsions. The countenance is more hideously distorted than it is possible to conceive: the eyes open and shut in quick succession; the mouth is in continual motion, and emits an indescribable hissing sound; the lips are covered with foam; the breathing is often stertorous, and the limbs are tossed about in the most frightful agitations. To add to the miserable situation of the mother, she is all this time in a state of total insensibility. According to my experience, the complaint is produced by sharp and hasty labours, rather than lingering or unnatural births.

The weakly and indolent are more liable to suffer from it than the hardy and active.

The origin of this alarming disorder has, among other causes,

been imputed to an irritable condition of the womb. To me it appears rather to proceed from an injury inflicted upon the uterine nerves, than from any other cause. By the too rapid and forcible dilatation of the cervix uteri, or tincæ, or vagina, some of the nervous fibrils are so suddenly extended, as to become fretted, unduly stretched, or perhaps actually torn, if not burst asunder, in struggling to expel the child. The morbid affection impressed upon these minute nervous ramifications is immediately conveyed to the great sympathetic and spinal chord. It is then carried to other spinal nerves, by which means those distressing spasms are produced in the muscular system, as already explained.

Several years ago, I was sitting beside a middle-aged female, the mother of several children; she was of large size, and very corpulent. While reclining in an easy chair, and engaged in conversation, she suddenly sprang forward, and fell prostrate upon the floor, as if dead. She was far advanced in pregnancy, but had given no previous notice of the approaching accouchment. After an anxious pause, and suspension of the vital powers for a few seconds, general convulsions burst forth in the most sudden manner, and to an alarming degree. They seized upon her limbs and countenance at the same moment. Both were frightfully agitated, and she writhed about incessantly. The child was speedily expelled by the mother's own efforts, and without her being at all conscious of what had taken place. The placenta immediately followed, unattended with any particular circumstance. No pulse could be felt for some time, and the vibrations of her heart were scarcely perceived. The spasms continuing unabated, a large dose of tincture of opium was given. The room being darkened, and perfect quietude enforced, she gradually sunk into a disturbed, and afterwards a calmer sleep. In this state she remained four or five hours, and then awoke completely exhausted. The action of the heart and arteries being still very feeble, I persevered in the means above recommended. These, with saline remedies and aperients, prevented the recurrence of fits, and she slowly recovered her former health.

Soon afterwards, I was called to a healthy and robust female of the sanguine temperament, and about twenty-five years of age. It was her first child. The labour had been sharp, but of short duration. She remained free from pain only a few minutes after the accouchment. She then became suddenly and universally convulsed, with the most horrifying spasms. Her face, eyes, and mouth were frightfully distorted, and in continual motion. I found her insensible, and unconscious of every thing around her. The countenance was flushed, and the pulse beat about eighty-five strokes in the minute. It was rather strong, full, and hard. A vein being freely opened, twenty ounces of blood were speedily extracted. The arm was then bound up. The fits became milder from that time, and returned at longer intervals. A full dose of opium procured several hours sleep. On her awaking, it was discovered that the bandage having slipped aside, more than twenty ounces of blood had escaped from the orifice into the bed. This

second loss of blood was so effectual that the fits never returned. The face appeared no longer flushed, and her skin felt cool. The pulse had become small, soft, and of moderate frequency. By strict attention to regimen and the state of her bowels, together with anodyne and saline medicines, she soon regained her former health, and was able to suckle the child. She lived to be the mother of five or six children, but had no more returns of the spasms.

So many distressing ailments arising from local injuries to particular nerves are recorded in medical books, that I think we are warranted, from analogy, to impute the invasion of puerperal convulsions to the lesion of some nerve in the uterus or vagina. Before I proceed to the cure, I will detain the reader by relating three instances of injuries to the nerves in other parts of the body. They came under my own observation, and although similar examples have often occurred to others, they are, I think, calculated to strengthen, if not actually to establish the doctrines I have advanced.

1st Case.—Being sent for to a distant patient, I was desired to see the wife of a medical practitioner in the same town, who was afflicted with distressing spasms. They returned several times every day, affecting both her legs, arms, and visage, for several minutes. She retained her senses during the fits, and soon recovered after they were over. I was informed that she had met with an accident several months before I saw her. While engaged in cutting some slices of bread, the knife slipped, and passed into the inside of her thumb. Though no more pain than commonly occurs after such a wound was felt at the moment, spasmodic twitchings, commencing in the same thumb, were soon perceived. They quickly extended from it over the whole member, to the other arm, to both legs, and the countenance, producing hideous distortions of the face, and violent convulsions in the limbs. Under a strong persuasion that a branch of the median nerve running to the flexors of the thumb was partially cut, or some of its twigs unduly stretched or fretted by the injury, I recommended with a view to relieve the part, that a deeper incision should be made in the same place. The opinion not being supported by the attending physician, or agreeable to the patient, it was over-ruled. Though many remedies were afterwards tried the spasms continued unabated. Disappointed in her expectations, she was at length induced to visit Edinburgh, and place herself under the care of the late Professor Monro. By his advice, the thumb was amputated a little below the part. The convulsions immediately disappeared, and never returned. It is, I think, a reasonable inference that the spasms, commencing in the affected thumb, proceeded either from injury of a branch of the median nerve, or some of its fibrils. Although the mode pursued was certainly the most effectual, I am sorry that a regard for the usefulness of the thumb did not lead this eminent practitioner to try the effect of a deep incision, before he proceeded to its dismemberment.

2d Case.—A similar accident befel an elderly lady from the

same cause, and in the same part. Convulsions immediately supervened for the first time in her life. She always felt them first in the wounded thumb, and they were propagated more or less extensively from it to the limbs and face. The cut soon healed, and after a few months the spasms left her.

3d Case.—I was called a few months since to a healthy looking boy, of the sanguine temperament, and about eight years old. He was brought from the country to London for medical advice, afflicted with violent spasms in his face and limbs. They returned every hour or two, and each fit lasted more than five minutes. His intellects were not in the least affected, nor did he suffer internally, except from involuntary discharges of urine during the paroxysms. On examination, I discovered a hard inflamed lump in his neck. It felt hot to the touch, and appeared about half the size of a small St. Michael's orange. This swelling being situated on the left side, directly over or near to the great sympathetic, par vagum, and origin of the phrenic nerve, as well as several of the cervical nerves, I did not hesitate to refer the convulsions to the pressure of this inflamed and hard body upon the cluster of nerves under it. My opinion being confirmed by one of the most eminent anatomists and surgeons in the metropolis, our indications were formed accordingly.

The boy was first put into a warm bath, and the phlegmonous tumour was afterwards fomented half an hour with the decoction of poppy heads and camomile flowers. A linseed poultice was then placed over the same part. The fomentations and poultices were renewed every six hours, till suppuration came on. This took place the third day, and the pus was carefully discharged. The abscess healed in a few days; but so successful was the treatment that no convulsions appeared after the first bathing and fomentation.

But to return to the consideration of our proper subject. It cannot, I think, be denied, that a bruise or other injury of the uterine nerves, received from the pressure of the child in parturition, is in itself not only quite sufficient, but often produces the whole train of symptoms which constitute puerperal convulsions.

According to the etiology of this formidable disease, as above laid down, it will be necessary to add to the remedies usually confided in, such as have a direct tendency to sooth and compose the uterine organs. For this purpose opiates are particularly required. They may be given by the mouth, and passed into the vagina or rectum. Immersion in the warm or hip bath will also be highly serviceable, and may be frequently repeated. Neither should anodyne fomentations to the abdomen and pudenda be overlooked.

(To be continued.)

DISTORTION OF THE LOWER EXTREMITIES.

(Continued from page 503.)

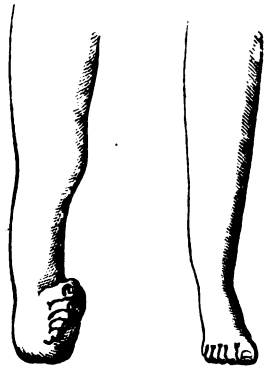
The second son of Mr. W.———, who is a gentleman of one of the first classes in the city, was born with his feet distorted in that

manner to which the name of varus has been given; every gentleman in every department of the medical profession, from whom relief could be expected, was applied to, but no benefit whatever was obtained by practising whatever measures were recommended by those gentlemen: at last, in mere despair, Mr. ——— applied to a man named Allen, who then lived in Garratt Lane, Wandsworth, and undertook to cure this and some other defects that were analogous to it. This man was a day labourer, sometimes in agriculture and sometimes in some of the manufactories that exist in that place. By what means he acquired the reputation of curing these defects has not come to my knowledge, but he was resorted to by many patients for several years; the number of his dupes diminished, and he died a few years ago in his original condition of a day labourer.

The degree of information upon these subjects that was possessed by all the men of every department of the medical profession, who practised in the metropolis at that time, may be comprehended by considering that this gentleman, whose means enabled him to command the assistance of any, or of all of them, if it had been wanted, and whose inclinations prompted him to do so, was obliged, as a dernier resort, to place his son in the hands of the person I have described. Mrs. W——— took up her residence in Wandsworth, that her son might be constantly attended by the operator; she remained there several months, and as no benefit was received from what he pretended to do, despair again resumed its influence, when, by some accident, Mrs. W——— was induced to apply to me. The patient was the oldest, and the case was the worst that had, at that time, been under my care; these two circumstances rendered it of great importance to me, because those who had been compelled, much against their inclination, by seeing the very young children that I had cured, to acknowledge that such cases *might* be cured, retreated but one step backward, and that unwillingly, by saying that I *might* cure those young children which they saw I *had* cured, because the bones were soft, quite gristles as they called them; but when a child arrived at the age of two years all his bones were ossified, and having now acquired both hardness and strength, had advanced so far into life that it would be quite impossible to alter them.

This was precisely the situation of my patient; yet, notwithstanding these denunciations, I undertook to perform the cure, and my complete success proved that the denunciations of failure that had been made were not verified.

At the time I began to attend, this boy was two years old; he was large for his age, very strong, healthy and active; his feet were so completely turned that in standing he rested upon the malleolus externus of each foot; the outer edges of each foot touched the ground in its whole length, and the soles of both the feet were close together, and the toes of both feet pointed directly forwards. In this state they were so rigidly fixed, that when I attempted to move them with my hands, they seemed to have no power or capacity for motion.



Another peculiarity, which does not happen but in the worst cases, was, that the bones of the leg appeared to be quite straight; they had none of that curvature, or at least tendency to curve, which the leg bones of all young children naturally have at the birth, and which diminishes as they advance in life. A line drawn from the outer condyle of the femur along the fibula to the malleolus externus was quite straight; and the inner condyle of the tibia, as well as the inner condyle of the femur, seemed to project inwards, and gave to the knee the appearance of being uncommonly large. These appearances will be understood by referring to the annexed figure, which was drawn from a cast of one of the legs: as the two legs perfectly resembled each other, I did not think it necessary to mould or draw them both.

The treatment of this case was a serious difficulty to me, and required every exertion that I could make: at every step I had to invent instruments of new form and increased power, though they were all formed upon principles that were familiar to me; my attention was unremitting, and in the end my success was complete, but three years elapsed before my patient was quite well. At that time his feet were quite well, and in a form that was completely natural; his legs and thighs were well formed, and he was capable of making any exertion, of every kind, that could be made by the most active boy of the same age, which, at the time I parted from him, was five years, three of which had been employed without intermission in performing the cure.

When I had attended this boy about twelve months, his mother was delivered of another son, whose feet were exactly like the former. This new-born infant was of a large size, healthy, and well-formed in every respect but his feet, which were exactly like those of his elder brother; they were deformed in the same manner, and were as rigidly fixed in their deformed state: this child was placed in my hands immediately after its birth; and, in consequence of being taken up so early, was more easily cured, though the rigidity and malformation were so great that two years elapsed before this child was quite cured and able to go alone without the support of any instrument. While I was attending these two children, their mother was delivered of a third son, whose feet were exactly like the two preceding; the child was equally healthy, the feet were equally deformed, and, being from his birth treated in the same manner, the cure was equally complete.

An objection was made to my having casts taken from the feet of the eldest child, and for this reason I contented myself with making drawings which represented them in the state they were in when I first saw him, and likewise after his feet were cured. The feet of the other two children so much resembled those of their elder brother, that I did not make either casts or models; it is sufficient to say, that they were alike; and the view of the deformed leg which I annex, as well as a view of the same leg taken after it was cured, and is like-

wise annexed, are correct representations of all the three cases in their original and in their restored state.

Several reflections force themselves on our attention upon considering these cases; the most prominent circumstance is, perhaps, the fact of the same parent having three children born, in succession, with the same defect: they had two children born before them that were quite perfect, and these three that were so deformed had a general resemblance to each other, in being healthy and of a large size, and the feet exactly resembling each other in their peculiar form; which has induced me to believe that this congenital distortion is produced by some disproportion between the uterus and its contents. When the child is large in proportion to the uterus which contains it, it must be much compressed, and this distortion must be the consequence of that compression. Healthy parents, I believe, do not *always* produce children that are *equal* to each other in size, or other physical qualities; though it *may* be so sometimes, and, when it is, this peculiarity of form may be one of the consequences. I have known several persons who have had two or three children born with these kind of feet, sometimes in succession, and sometimes with well formed children intervening between those who were born with these kind of defects. I know one lady who had six children, and five of them were born with feet distorted in this manner, and the children were all very healthy.

The knowledge of these facts may contribute to settle the opinions of professional men upon the subject of children being marked, or otherwise deformed, by the imagination of the mother: these opinions are not at all settled at present among professional men. I am disposed to think that these and other peculiarities are not produced by fright, or any influence of the imagination; because my own observations confirm the opinion of Doctor Hunter, who told us, in his lectures, that he made it an invariable rule during the whole of his practice, whenever he brought a child into the world that had any mark or other peculiarity of form, to question the mother, in order to discover if she had, at any time during pregnancy, been frightened in any manner that could account for the peculiarity that he found in the child; and, although he invariably did this, in no one instance did he ever find a lady who remembered that she had been so frightened: but, the Doctor added, after some days had elapsed, and the lady found that the child had some mark, and she had time to converse with those who surround ladies in that situation, she generally *recollected* some fright or other circumstance which enabled her to account for the child being marked as she now found that it was. Recollection and invention, as exerted upon this subject, Doctor Hunter always considered as synonymous terms, and totally disbelieved that such peculiarities were ever produced in the manner that was pretended.

Another remarkable circumstance is the miserable state of ignorance in which all the professional men of that time existed, as to the means of assisting persons who laboured under these defects, when a gentleman like Mr. W———, whose property and inclination enabled him to command the attention of any person whatever who was able

to serve his children, could find no person whatever who would even *pretend to do so*, but a miserable day-labourer in a country village: even the quacks in the town shrunk appalled from the perilous undertaking. How greatly superior is even that class of persons in the present day! in those days of ignorance, London abounded with ignorant persons, who did mischief enough to those unfortunate persons who employed them. These ignorant operators, in those barbarous times, were contented to bear the homely titles of Truss Makers, Shape Menders, Spinal Staymakers, and sundry other synonymous titles, which demonstrated more of their modesty than of their knowledge; but the march of intellect is now driving those homely titles into oblivion, and the same class of persons who are now doing more mischief than ever their predecessors did, at present dignify themselves with the more elegant titles of *Mechanical Surgeons*, and *Surgical Mechanicians!* As it is one of your objects to expose nefarious quackery wherever you find it, I shall, as I proceed, introduce you to some of the most notorious of these persons: at present I shall only make you acquainted with one, who is connected with the subject upon which I am now treating.

A few years ago, a man who was then a journeyman saddler, or a journeyman blacksmith, deserted his own trade, and became journeyman to one of the common truss-makers of the town; in a very short time he commenced truss-maker himself: he took a shop in an obscure situation, and put upon it, *that he made Trusses for the Trade*, as well as for individuals. To make way for some of the new improvements, the commissioners purchased his premises; and, with the money thus fortunately obtained, he purchased a better house elsewhere, and now writes over his door,—*Surgical Mechanician, or Mechanical Surgeon to the Charing Cross Hospital, and to Guy's Hospital.* The first information I had of this fact was from a gentleman who is well known to you; he asked me if I could tell him who Doctor —— was? being unacquainted with any person of that name, we came to an explanation, when our friend informed me that Doctor —— was a person of great eminence in the art of curing personal deformities, and was, moreover, Mechanical Surgeon to the Charing Cross Hospital, and to Guy's!! I was now quite *au fait;* and, upon further inquiry, learnt from our friend, that some acquaintance of his had asked him for information about this Doctor ——, who had been strongly recommended to the inquirer, as being eminently qualified to cure his child of distortion in the foot, which resembled some of those cures that I have just represented. The *Doctor*, he said, had seen the child, had said he was quite certain that he could cure it, if it was placed in his hands, and that he would undertake to cure it for one hundred and eighty guineas, but *he must have that money paid in advance!* the inquirer retrograded, instead of advancing, and at the time that I was making the inquiry, no bargain was made.

You will make what observations you please upon this anecdote: I shall only say, that if there is a place called the Charing Cross Hospital, it is *non est inventus;* for I have looked over the whole neighbourhood and not seen such a building. If there is such a

place, and what they please to call regular medical officers belonging to it. THEY *must be* a very shabby set, or they would not permit this saddler, blacksmith, or truss-maker, who has transformed himself into some sort of a doctor, to assume the title of Mechanical Surgeon to this institution. If there is such an hospital, you, in all probability, know more about it than I do; at all events, it is a very proper subject for you to investigate. I am, yours, &c.

No. 7, Devonshire-Street, T. SHELDRAKE.
Portland Place.

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTE of HEALTH.

DISSECTION OF HUMAN BODIES.

We have great pleasure in laying before our readers the copy of a memorandum written by the late Major Cartwright, and found among his papers about a fortnight after his death. It shows the same ardent and disinterested zeal for the welfare of mankind, which had actuated him through life. This paper, valuable at all times, becomes more particularly interesting, when the necessity for anatomical knowledge, to form the medical character, is under parliamentary consideration.

"The importance to society of medical knowledge is obvious. Medical knowledge must be founded on anatomical knowledge; and, in proportion as physicians and surgeons are skilled in anatomy, will be their usefulness. That all students in surgery should *practically* study anatomy is doubtless necessary, since the mere *theory* to be learned from books cannot qualify a surgeon to perform difficult and delicate operations; nor can those who study medicine expect to improve their science unless they shall add to books a practical study of anatomy.

"Reflecting on the foregoing considerations, and also recollecting that the separation of the atoms of our bodies by worms is unavoidable, it seems desirable, for the benefit of society, that they should previously be dissected by the teachers of medicine and surgery.

"It is therefore my wish, that, very soon after my decease, my corpse may be committed to the care of my friend, Dr. Harrison, (if at that time in London,*) or to Mr. Cline, or to the last attending physician,

* It is conjectured, from this expression, as well as from other circumstances, that this paper was written only a few weeks before the Major's death, as he was then first made acquainted with Dr. Harrison's engagement to visit Lincolnshire the same autumn. This journey was deferred till after the Major's death and interment. The former took place in Burton Crescent, September 23d, 1824. The remains of this excellent and disinterested patriot were deposited in an ancient family vault, at Finchley, on the first of the following month.

The Major, with his characteristic simplicity, and dislike of whatever had the appearance of ostentation, left another written memorandum, in which he requested that his funeral should be strictly private. But so many of his friends, and particularly of the Neapolitan and Spanish emigrants, entreated permission to accompany his remains to their final deposit, that their request was in part acceded to.

to be removed to Surgeons' Hall, for dissection, in a regular lecture, and then immediately deposited in its coffin, ready for being conveyed to the place of interment. But all this, relative to dissection, to be on condition of Dr. Harrison, Mr. Cline, or such last attending physician, engaging for the punctual observance of what I wish to be done, to the entire satisfaction of my executors, on whose consent the whole must depend. My own wish is, simply, that my body, after death and before its decomposition, may be instrumental in promoting the good of mankind."

HYDROPHOBIA, &c. &c.

It is a fact well known, that the Indians of South America are practically acquainted with the medicinal virtues of the plants of that country:—to them we are indebted for a knowledge of the Peruvian bark, ipecacuanha, rhatania, &c. Dr. Mackie, an experienced physician, who resided many years in different parts of South America, has recently received from thence two plants, used by the Indians for curing insanity and pulmonary consumption, which he was in the habit of prescribing with such decided success, that he feels convinced of their proving equally efficacious in Europe. Soon after his return to England, he published, in the New Monthly Magazine, an account of the virtue of the Guaco plant in hydrophobia, and as his statement may not be uninteresting, we give it in his own words. "I shall simply state, that during my residence in South America, I had frequent opportunities of witnessing the direful effects of hydrophobia, without having, in any one case that came under my care, been successful in its cure by the usual modes prescribed in Europe. It fortunately occurred to me, that the Guaco, so celebrated for curing the bite or sting of all venomous snakes, might prove equally efficacious in hydrophobic cases. How far my idea was correct, that an analogy existed between the virus of a serpent and that of a rabid dog, I leave to others to determine; but such was my opinion, and I acted upon it in all subsequent cases with complete success."

As the Guaco plant is now growing in the botanical garden of Mr. Lambert, Vice President of the Linnæan Society, who received the seeds last year from South America, we shall be obliged to Dr. Mackie to acquaint us with the method of employing it in hydrophobia, and also an account of the plants which are administered by the natives of South America in cases of mania and pulmonary consumption.

The mode of treating diseases which is generally adopted by the native practitioners of South America, and of the East Indies, by decoctions, infusions, and the expressed juices of vegetable productions, has, at any rate, that great recommendation—*simplicity;* but, contemptible as it may appear to be to the practitioners of this country, who suppose that no disease can be successfully combatted without blue pill or calomel, or some active mineral or vegetable poison, agreeably to some favourite theory, it often proves successful; and indeed, from the information we have received from intelligent gentlemen who have spent some years among the natives of South America and of the East Indies, (some of them members of the

medical profession,) we are disposed to believe that in some diseases, particularly scorbutic and scrofulous affections, and those termed *pseudo-syphilitic*, the native surgeons are more successful than the practitioners of this country. To us, the great difference between the practice of the former and that of the latter, appears to be, that the one *lead* nature by simple means, which enable her to correct the constitution and to produce a healthy process of mutation in a diseased part, whilst the other, *drive* nature by powerful remedies, as blue pill, or some active chemical preparation. Often have we witnessed the recovery of patients, who had been discharged from an hospital, under the simple treatment by decoction of an apparently simple vegetable, and by fomentations under the direction of an old woman; and whoever considers how simple the operations of nature are, will not be surprised that such treatment should succeed even in a formidable chronic disease. Every practitioner of experience and observation will, we think, admit, that many thousand invalids are annually hurried to their graves in this metropolis, by persevering in the use of calomel or the blue pill, or a drastic purgative, who might have been cured, or whose lives might have been prolonged many years, by a mild alterative treatment; and that many a limb might have been saved by a mild topical treatment of the local disease, which has been consigned to the knife. In cases of internal acute disease, or active inflammation of a vital part, a decisive treatment is absolutely necessary to save life; but in chronic diseases, attempts by potent remedies to drive nature, but too often distract her. To the new theory of chronic inflammation or ulceration of the mucous membrane of some part of the alimentary canal, thousands have already been sacrificed.

INFLAMMATION OF THE EYES AND CATARACT.

Mr. Estlin, of Bristol, not having met with a case of inflammation of the eyes in a chimney-sweeper during the course of his long and extensive practice, and finding that Mr. Goldwyer, surgeon to a charity for diseases of the eyes, which has been established in Bristol for upwards of twenty years, had no recollection of a chimney-sweeper, afflicted with the disease, having applied for advice since he had held the appointment, is inclined to believe that soot protects the eyes against inflammation. He draws no inference from this supposed fact; but expresses a wish to ascertain if it be general. We have no recollection of having met with a case of the species of inflammation of the eye technically termed *ophthalmia membranarum* (inflammation of the membranes of the eye); but so far as our observation goes, chimney-sweepers are particularly subject to the species termed *ophthalmia tarsi* (inflammation of the edges of the eye-lids). Mr. Estlin, in the same communication, notices a case of "spontaneous cure of cataract. The patient had gone through the operation of extraction of the obscured lens, after which, during the sympathetic affection of the other eye, the diseased lens was either absorbed or underwent a favourable mutation. About twenty years since, we published a similar case which occurred in a gentleman about sixty-five years of age (Admiral Henry). The opaque lens of the right eye was

extracted by the late Mr. Ware, and the operation having failed, the Admiral would not allow Mr. W. to operate on the other eye. The patient had recourse to friction and slight pommeling, during which a favourable change took place, either from absorption or mutation; and in a few months the Admiral, who, we understand, is still living, was capable of reading a middle-sized type.

BITE OF AN ADDER.

Mr. Wakley has published a case of the bite of an adder, which was successfully treated by Mr. George Wowen, a scientific surgeon of Henley-i-Arden. The patient, a man about thirty years of age, was apparently in perfect health at the time he met with the accident. Happening whilst mowing to tread on the tail of an adder, the animal bit the lower part of the right leg. In the course of two hours the leg swelled, and the whole system was immediately greatly disturbed, particularly the brain, stomach, and circulation. Mr. Wowen ordered a common bread poultice with oil to be applied to the limb, and a bolus, of two grains of opium and four of calomel, to be taken at bed time. This composition succeeded in procuring sleep, and in exciting a gentle perspiration. The bowels were relaxed. The following day the swelling continued to advance, and the constitutional disturbance was evidently increased. Mr. W. opened a vein of the arm, but no blood escaping, he applied six leeches to the leg. The case becoming very serious, Mr. W. resolved on administering stimulants; and rum being the nearest at hand, he directed it to be given at short intervals in small quantities. The perspiration now increased, and the symptoms considerably abated. The veins of the arms becoming distended, Mr. W. opened one, and obtained from it about twenty ounces of rich florid blood. This had an immediate good effect on the whole system and on the wounded extremity. Mr. W. now ordered the whole leg to be enveloped in the common bread poultice, and a mixture of tincture of musk and camphorated mixture to be administered. On the following day, when the patient was considerably better, Mr. W. prescribed a lotion composed of the extract of lead and Mindererus's spirit, with water, to be applied to the leg, and the poultice to be continued during the night. After this the patient continued to improve, and with the view to hasten his recovery, he ordered an ounce of a mixture, the decoction of bark (five ounces and a half) with the tincture (half an ounce) to be taken twice a-day.

Mr. Wowen concludes his communication with the following question and observation: To what may the *symptoms* of this case be attributed? As on the most attentive observation of the case throughout the illness, no circumstances occurred which could induce me to suppose that the *disease* existed in the absorbents, I am strongly of opinion that the *principal* seat existed in the veins.

The disturbance of the constitution was evidently produced by venom, but whether it was conveyed to the mass of blood by absorbents, or by veins, or acted primarily on the nervous system, is a question. The local effect of some poisons is no doubt rapidly extended *throughout the whole system* (brain and spinal marrow) without entering the

circulation. In cases of wounds in an extremity, the irritation frequently disturbs the whole nervous system, and has produced inflammation in the spinal marrow or its membranes, the dura and pia mater. In cases similar to the above, some German physicians employ the warm air bath, on M. La Beaume's plan, for the purpose of speedily producing copious perspiration, which, they assert, carries off the poison.

PUERPERAL MANIA *(mania following delivery).*

Professor Berndt, of Gréifswald, has published a few cases of this malady, in which camphor produced a very happy effect. In two of the cases, camphor was administered in the quantity of ten grains (made into an emulsion with gum arabic and water) clysterwise, in consequence of the patient refusing to swallow any kind of medicine. Leeches were also applied to the temples, and cold water to the head, and the patients were kept as quiet as possible in a room with very little light. Two days after administering the lavement, about every fifth hour, the patients were so much composed as willingly to swallow medicine. The Professor accordingly ordered four grains of camphor to be administered every two hours, which in a few days succeeded in restoring the patient to health. Drs. Haslam, Cox, Burrowes, Halloran, and other eminent physicians, who have paid particular attention to mental maladies, and whose experience in such cases has been very extensive, condemn the use of camphor in mania. We have frequently observed an increased degree of excitement almost immediately after the exhibition of a dose of camphor on sanguineous maniacs; but in the leucophlegmatic we have uniformly found it to have a contrary effect. The camphorated mixture so frequently prescribed with the acetate of ammonia by routine physicians, in cases of inflammatory fever, and of inflammation of the lungs, or pleura, we have generally found in such cases to increase febrile action. There is a great difference between a disturbed brain by labour and common mania. On a dog, camphor, in the dose of half a drachm, produces inflammation of the brain.

BURNS AND SCALDS.

Mr. Marshall, a scientific surgeon of London, states, in a communication addressed to Mr. North, that he has found flour (of wheat) far more beneficial than any other topical application, in cases of burns or scalds. He has uniformly found it, in such accidents, speedily to allay pain and inflammation, and to effect a cure, by hastening the process of incrustation, by uniting with the discharge. The peculiar gluten that exists in flour, evidently of an animal nature, Mr. Marshall thinks, by hastening the regeneration of the scarf-skin, protects the *rete mucosum* and true skin. When the flour has formed the artificial incrustation, the further application of it becomes superfluous, which is perceived by its rolling off.

Mr. M. has also found this application beneficial in a case of irritative superficial ulcerations, with an ichorous discharge. The patient was only three months old, and the ulcers were situated on the lips,

chin, groin, and the inside of the right leg, to the toes. The result was most satisfactory. Some parts healed in a few hours, and the whole in three or four days. Mr. M. has added some cases of burns and scalds, in which this treatment seemed to have acted as a charm. The mode of applying it consisting only in occasionally sprinkling it over the injured or ulcerated parts, till incrustation is effected, and the surface becomes dry: the relation of the cases will afford no practical information. Attention, of course, must be paid to the intestinal canal, and state of the nervous and sanguiferous systems. We have very frequently observed the good effects of fine oatmeal sprinkled over erysipelatous vesications with a view of absorbing the discharge, a favourite practice with the late Professor Cullen, in subduing inflammation, and in hastening the reproduction of cuticle, and also of hair-powder in cases of irritative inflammatory, and lorepus affections of the skin. The application of flour in cases of habitual ulceration after a healthy surface has been produced by poultice and digestive remedies, and of the excoriation of children, &c. merits a trial.

DIABETES.

Mr. Burnett, a respectable surgeon of Great Marylebone Street, has published a case of diabetes, which gradually terminated during the adoption of a diet consisting of animal food, without spirits, with the use of a sudorific medicine, and an occasional aperient. As a sudorific, Mr. B. prefers the following composition:—

Take of Dover's Powder, twelve grains;
Antimonial Powder, five grains;
Gum Arabic Powder, ten grains.—Mix.

To be taken at seven o'clock, and again at ten, each evening; and an hour after each powder, the following draught:—

Take of Mindererus's Spirit, one ounce;
Camphorated Mixture, half an ounce.—Mix.

In order to promote the sudorific operation of these medicines, he directs, after having put the feet and legs into warm water, the patient to go into a warmed bed, and to drink freely of warm milk and water. To keep up the secretion of the skin, he recommends the patient to continue during the day in a warm room, and to take a saline sudorific, as Mindererus's Spirit (about two table-spoonsful) every five hours, with the same quantity of camphorated mixture every four hours. As an aperient, he prefers the infusion of senna, a dose of which he directs to be given every other day. In this mode of treatment, Mr. Burnett acknowledges there is nothing new—(the same, with the addition of the warm vapour-bath, we have recommended in our Medical Guide)—but, says Mr. Burnett, there is one practical point it suggests," viz. that although sudorifics are frequently prescribed, they are seldom *effectively* administered, for diabetes is a disease on which so little impression is made, and so little relief obtained, that hope becomes languid, and neglect supervenes. Furthermore, in the early stage of diabetes, in which, perhaps, it alone is curable, the difficulty is great to persuade a person, in some measure *able to go* through the duties of his calling, and whose appetite is

good, to refrain from accustomed indulgences, and to persevere in an irksome treatment; hence remedies are too often imperfectly employed, and pursued for a very inadequate period.

DISEASES OF THE EAR.

Messrs. Hurst, Chance, and Co. have published a practical treatise on the causes, seat, and treatment of the varieties of deafness and other diseases of the ear: by the experienced and scientific aurist, Mr. Wright. The work is dedicated to his patient and patron the Duke of Wellington. In giving an analysis of a new work, we are always studious to concentrate the valuable *practical* matter so as to enable our readers to form an estimate of its value, and to determine for themselves whether it be a book worthy their notice, or a mere advertisement for fees: and really this is not so easy a task as many may imagine; for often when time is particularly valuable to us, and the watchman's voice vibrates on our tympana the hour when we should be taking breakfast instead of that of adjournment to the pillow of repose, we have found that we have waded through some hundreds of pages without having been able to collect one single observation or hint of any novelty or of the smallest practical utility, and have in fact "toiled all night and caught no fish," and that we have many more uninteresting pages to go through. Mr. Wright's work, although not of this class, is one extremely difficult to analyse on our own plan, for we have found every chapter so crowded with practical matter as not to admit of being concentrated. Every line has its real value in information; and after attentively reading every page, we have no hesitation in asserting, that our medical and non-medical readers will find it the most valuable work that has appeared in this country on the treatment, causes, &c. of the diseases of the ear. The author has studiously avoided technicalities, and has drawn his inferences from facts. To his professional brethren he expresses his acknowledgments for the personal attention he has experienced from them, and their liberality in presenting to his notice the curious cases which occurred in their practice. In common justice to himself, Mr. Wright has occasionally given references to the pages of his former works; because in a publication which has just made its appearance, claims of originality are made on those very points which he had previously and publicly brought under the notice of the medical profession. To our medical readers we cannot hesitate in recommending this work as a standard one of reference in all cases of diseases of the ear; and to our non-medical readers as containing a most pleasing, popular, anatomical description of the ear, and the latest discoveries as to the causes and treatment of its diseases, divested of technical obscurities.

TUMID ERYSIPELAS OF THE LEGS.

The editors of a French journal (Clinique des Hôpitaux) have published a few cases of erysipelatous tumefaction of the lower extremities, in which compression by means of rollers effected a cure. All the

patients were upwards of 65 years of age. The first application occasioned some pain, which continued only a short time. The inflammation, which was considerable, speedily terminated by resolution from the effects of pressure alone. In France, males and females, after the age of fifty, are very subject to edematous swelling of the legs, with erysipelatous inflammation of the skin, probably in consequence of the great quantity of simple decoctions and certain vegetables, as sorrel, watercresses, &c. the natives are in the habit of taking to purify the blood and juices; and under the supposition that the disease arises from a foul state of the humours of the body, they increase the quantity of their corrective diet-drinks and vegetables, to remove the supposed cause. The bandage we have found most useful in such cases, and in simple edematous swelling of the legs, is made of an elastic article, manufactured for the purpose by Mr. Shoolbred, of 34, Jermyn-street, St. James's.

INDIGESTION ATTENDED WITH SLUGGISHNESS OF THE LIVER AND INTESTINES.

We have met with three cases of indigestion, attended with considerable torpidity of the liver and intestines, of long standing, in patients who had for some time resided in the East Indies, in which the application of the galvanic fluid, under the direction of the experienced M. La Beaume, with the infusion of the chirayita herb, succeeded in bringing the liver and intestines into proper action, and to establish their health. The chirayita herb, in cases of indigestion arising from morbid irritability of the stomach, and accompanied with sluggishness of the liver and intestines, we have most satisfactorily ascertained, not only to allay the morbid nervousness of the stomach, but to act as effectually in promoting the secretion of the liver as the blue pill or calomel, without producing any of its bad effects on the nervous system, the gums, or teeth. It is therefore a most valuable addition to our materia medica. In cases of long standing, or where the liver is become torpid from the influence of a tropical climate, galvanism, which acts directly on the liver, is a most valuable auxiliary. Mr. Abernethy, some time since, in his own case, found it necessary to have recourse to galvanism, as an auxiliary to his favourite remedy for all the chronic diseases to which man is liable—the blue pill. Notwithstanding the violent opposition galvanism has experienced from narrow-minded physicians, who oppose every discovery that is likely to affect their fee trade, the mere beneficial results of the trials dyspeptic invalids, who dare to think for themselves, have given it, have established its reputation on so sound a base, that no opposition can possibly shake it.

TIC DOULOUREUX.

Dr. James Anderson, of Dublin, on whom the Marquis of Anglesea conferred the honour of Knighthood, a correspondent informs us, has discovered a successful mode of treating this most distressing malady. The Marquis has suffered severely from this malady since his return to London; and experiencing no relief from the assistance of his medical

friends he consulted, he sent for Sir James Anderson, who has, for some days, been almost in constant attendance on his Lordship; but from the reports we have received, his great skill and judgment have hitherto been exercised in vain.

Sir James attributes the disease, situated in the nerves of the face, to an extension of the irritation existing in the stump, which is at times much inflamed, and in a high degree of irritation from exfoliations. This is certainly an interesting case, and, to us, appears a very proper one, either for the use of the belladonna, as recommended by Mr. Bailey, of Harwich, or for the internal and topical use of the cicuta, as recommended by the late Mr. Ring. When a person pretends to possess a specific remedy for a disease, or an infallible mode of curing it, which he keeps a secret, the inference is, it will not bear publicity; or, in other words, that what is really valuable, may be conveyed in one syllable—*Hum!*

Who is Sir James Anderson?

ASTHMA.

We have lately met with a case of asthma in an elderly lady, attended evidently with an effusion of serum in the cavity of the chest and in the pericardium, in which acupuncturation of the lower extremities, which were edematous, proved very beneficial. Smoking the compound lobelia herbs for a quarter of an hour twice a-day, as recommended in our last number, and taking the etherial tincture of the lobelia inflata, (a tea-spoonful, three times a-day,) in an infusion of the chirayita herb, (three table-spoonsful,) and two pills composed of elaterium, (half a grain,) calomel, (two grains,) alcaline extract of jalap, (five grains,) and oil of cloves, (one drop,) every third day, afforded considerable relief; but after the serum had continued to escape from the punctures three days, the legs were reduced nearly to their natural size, the breathing became free, and she was able for the first time for six months to rest in an horizontal position. The speedy beneficial effects of draining the cellular substance of the legs of serum, when affected with edema, in cases of effusions of serum within the chest, or of asthma and chronic cough of elderly people, we have very frequently witnessed, both in hospital and private practice, and the method of effecting it by acupuncturation, as practised by Mr. Churchill, we believe to be perfectly safe, and as effectual as scarification or blistering.

THERAPEUTICS.

EFFERVESCING APERIENT SALTS.

We have met with several compositions of aperient salts lately introduced into practice by some respectable chemists and apothecaries, under the names of effervescing aperient salts, effervescing Cheltenham salts, effervescing magnesian salts, &c. Dr. Boisragin, of Cheltenham, has recommended an effervescing aperient salt to some of our friends during their residence at Cheltenham, in preference to *the* native *or* artificial Cheltenham waters, which some Cheltenham visitors have been so unceremonious as to denominate the *five* hums, in allusion, as we presume, to the various strengths and qualities of the water of springs within a few yards of each other!!! Boisragin, we

suspect, having arrived at that climacteric period when the sensibility of the conscience is apt to increase in proportion as that of the body, or the vital powers decrease, can no longer countenance the "home (hum?) trade" of Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5—or of the aperient chalybeate *without* iron (!!), Cheltenham magnesian salts, oxygenated and deoxygenated!!! simple and compound, sulphureous, and chalybeate springs; the discovery, or rather trade of which has been far more productive of pure gold to the hummers, if not more delusive to the hummed, than "the gold mine speculation has been to the South American Mining Company of London." A Divine, concerned in one of the mineral water hums of Cheltenham, lately very justly observed, that neither chemistry nor common sense has any thing to do with the medicinal products of *nature!* Certainly, if all invalids were to consult common sense, the Cheltenham bubbles would long ere this have ceased to exist. We perfectly agree with Dr. Boisragin, that an effervescing aperient salt is an excellent aperient, particularly in cases of indigestion, accompanied with morbid irritation of the stomach, general nervousness, and constipation in a sanguineous habit. We have often had occasion to complain of the unsatisfactory aperient effects of the composition of powdered Rochelle salt, and the tartaric acid and carbonate of soda, sold under the ridiculous name of Seidlitz Powder, (ridiculous, because not one of the articles is an ingredient of "the Seidlitz *mineral* water, and because one article (the acid) is a *vegetable*" production). The fæcal evacuations this compound generally produces, we have observed to be very small and flatulent, and the intestinal canal frequently, for the whole day, to continue inflated, or in the state vulgarly but significantly termed "grumbling," so as to prove very harassing to a nervous patient. The evacuations occasioned by some of the effervescing saline aperients, in consequence of containing more active ingredients, as the sulphates of magnesia and soda, are more copious and satisfactory, and do not leave the intestines in a grumbling or irritated state. The composition we have found most efficacious and pleasant in its effects on the stomach and intestines, and its cooling operation on the whole system, has been lately introduced by Mr. Moxon, a respectable chemist of Hull. We find this article to allay morbid irritation of the stomach, to keep up the peristaltic motion of the intestines, and to diminish febrile or excessive heat. It is, therefore, an excellent article for feverish or nervous subjects to take during the hot days of summer, or in a tropical climate. For debilitated elderly subjects, whose vital powers are on the decline, and whose constitutions are leucophlegmatic, or disposed to dropsy (general or local), experience has long convinced us a *saline* aperient of any kind is very improper. By reducing the temperature of the stomach and bowels, and, consequently, diminishing the circulation of blood in the viscera, &c. of the abdomen, it occasions an increased afflux to the head (producing giddiness, and even apoplexy, in those predisposed to the disease), and at the same time diminishes the distribution of blood to the lower extremities. In this class of invalids, either artificial aperient salts or native aperient waters, uniformly increase the general debility of the body, whilst the aromatic stomachic vegetable purgatives, as the alcaline extract of jalap, or the aqueous extract of aloes, &c. with ginger, or the oil of caraway seeds, or cloves, have a contrary effect.

BANDAGES.

Of the great advantages resulting from the use of a bandage in cases of edematous swelling, or weakness of the lower extremities, or of the knee, wrist, and of varicose veins, every surgeon of any experience must be fully

aware. The usual mode of applying rollers made of calico or flannel, or even the use of laced stockings, made of an unyielding or an inelastic article, often fails, and is, indeed, not unfrequently productive of mischief, in consequence of partial pressure, or of becoming partially displaced during the night, or during walking, or of the latter, although well adapted to the size of the extremity, becoming puckered. These inconveniences are effectually obviated by the elastic bandages, for which Mr. Shoolbred, of Jermyn-street, has lately obtained a patent. We have met with so many cases of edematous swelling of the legs, and of varicose veins, in which this bandage, from its regular support and elasticity, has proved very beneficial and a great comfort to the invalids, by enabling them to walk, that we consider it our duty to recommend them to the attention of our readers. There is one observation made on the application of a roller in cases of edematous swelling of the legs, by Dr. Robinson, in his late Practical Treatise on the proper Diet, &c. of elderly and weakly People, and the Tonic Properties of the Round-leaf Cornel, which is particularly worthy attention: — viz. "when the digestive organs and kidneys do not perform their important functions, the practice of rolling dropsical legs, generally proves very hurtful, the serum being in consequence effused in the cavity of the abdomen, and sometimes of the chest; but when the stomach has been invigorated by the round-leaf cornel, the use of a roller to the lower extremities completes the cure."

THE CHIRAYITA HERB.

An intensely bitter herb, imported either from Holland or Germany, has been lately hawked among the herbalists of Covent Garden, Fleet Market, &c., under the name of *chirayita*. It is a short plant with very small stems, large leaves, and no root. The bitter is very dissimilar to that of the true Chirayita, and is free from aroma. The true Chirayita, from the East Indies, is near a yard in height, the stem is large, and the leaves small and few, with a proportionate root. Having paid particular attention to the effects of the chirayita on the stomach, liver, &c. &c., and having been for some time collecting the opinions of those medical gentlemen who have given it a fair trial, and who are still continuing to prescribe it, and having given it the character we have, from the results of our own experience and that of others, found it to merit, we have thought it our duty to expose this imposition, and candidly to state that we will publish the names of those herbalists or druggists whom we may detect in not selling the genuine article. We are glad to find that the Editor of that valuable medical work, a number of which is published monthly by Mr. Churchill, of Leicester Square, under the title of "Medical Botany," intends to give a plate of the species of the chirayita; the peculiar stomachic and deobstruent properties of which have been noticed by Drs. Fleming, Johnson, and other physicians of the East Indies, who have had ample opportunities of witnessing its effects.

QUACKERY, PLAGIARISMS, &c.

BOOK-MAKING.

That notorious plagiarist, Doctor Thomas John Graham, author of "A System of Modern Domestic Medicine," "Sure Methods of Preserving Health," "A *Practical* Treatise on Indigestion," and a "Treatise on Epilepsy," proprietor of a specific remedy for epilepsy, cancer, and indigestion, has again appeared in the Book Market, with a voluminous work of 616 pages, with his name in the title page as the *author*, entitled, "Chemical Catechism; in which the *elements* of chemistry, with the recent discoveries in the science, are clearly and fully explained, illustrated by notes, engravings, and tables, and containing an appendix of select experiments."

Notwithstanding the numerous excellent treatises that have lately appeared on chemistry, the *Doctor* has discovered a vacancy for bringing forward another, on the "demerits of Mr. Parke's Catechisms." He modestly acknowledges that Mr. Parke's work contains "a *good deal of useful information*," *but* the *matter* appears to him to be *badly* arranged !! and not to be of that *scientific* and *elementary* character which is *universally* expected in such a work"!!! Excellent! most excellent!!

Our intercourse with our brethren has led us to believe that medical men in general have paid more attention to one department of medicine than to another, and that few are equally acquainted with all. The late Dr. Baillie was great in natural and morbid anatomy, the late Dr. Wollaston in chemistry, the late Dr. Heberden in pathology, and the late Dr. Duncan in pharmacology. From the perusal of a puffing account of Dr. Graham's *new* book on chemistry, and his bombastic preface, we were inclined to suppose that chemistry might be his fort. Notwithstanding the ignorance and chicanery his other works exhibit, we really entered on a critical examination of his *new* one, with an impression on our mind more in its favour than otherwise. We have had him in pharmacy, pathology, surgery, and in quackery; in all of which, notwithstanding his plagiarisms, he makes a most contemptible figure. We have him now in the most scientific department of medicine—chemistry. We proceeded through a few pages in perfect good humour, but the plagiarisms so rapidly multiplied, and some, from their length, excited in our minds such feelings of indignation and contempt, that the size of the book alone prevented us from committing it to the flames. Like his other works, viz. System of Modern Domestic Medicine, and Sure Methods of Preserving Health, it consists of the most impudent plagiarisms, without any reference to the authors, or even an inverted comma, but the whole given as original matter! These disgraceful, pitiful pilferies are connected with a few lines or words, in which he has given the most glaring proofs of his ignorance of the subject!!! So much for the *unscientific* arrangement of Mr. Parke's Chemical Catechism, which, in the Doctor's opinion, made a vacancy in chemical literature for a *new* SCIENTIFIC elementary work!!!

We must do this bold plagiarist the justice to say, that he has employed the pen as well as the scissors, a few words having been altered of his plagiarisms, which appear in every page. We can spare room only for two specimens. That our readers may readily contrast them, we shall give them in opposite columns.

Graham's Catechisms.

"I would remark that muriatic acid is composed of 36 parts, or 1 atom of chlorine, and 1 part or 1 atom of hydrogen; and the black oxide of manganese (which is the peroxide,) of 28 parts or 1 atom of manganese, and 16 parts or 2 atoms of oxygen. When these compounds re-act on one another, 1 atom of each is decomposed: the peroxide of manganese gives one atom of oxygen to the hydrogen of the muriatic acid, in consequence of which one atom of water is generated, and one atom of chlorine is disengaged; while the protoxide of manganese, (this substance being reduced from the peroxide to the protoxide, from having given off an atom of its oxygen) unites with an atom of undecomposed muriatic acid, and forms an atom of the muriate of the protoxide of manganese. Consequently, for every 44 grains of the peroxide of manganese, 74 (37 × 2) grains of muriatic acid disappear; and 36 chlorine, 9 water, and 73 protomuriate of manganese, are the products of the decomposition. The affinities which determine these changes are the attraction of oxygen for hydrogen, and of the protoxide of manganese for muriatic acid."

Turner's Elements of Chemistry.

"Muriatic acid consists of 36 parts or one equivalent of chlorine, and one part or one equivalent of hydrogen. The peroxide of manganese, is composed of 28 parts or one equivalent of manganese, and 16 or two equivalents of oxygen. When these compounds re-act on one another, one equivalent of each is decomposed. The peroxide of manganese gives one equivalent of oxygen to the hydrogen of the muriatic acid, in consequence of which, one equivalent of water is generated, and one equivalent of chlorine disengaged; while the protoxide of manganese unites with an equivalent of undecomposed muriatic acid, and forms an equivalent of the muriate of the protoxide of manganese. Consequently, for every 44 grains of the peroxide of manganese, 74 (37 × 2) grains of real muriatic acid disappear; and 36 parts of chlorine, 9 of water, and 73 of protomuriate of manganese, are the products of the decomposition. The affinities which determine these changes are the attraction of oxygen for hydrogen, and of the protoxide of manganese for muriatic acid."

The reader will observe that the Doctor has substituted the word *atom* for *equivalent*. The Doctor dared not venture on any further alterations for "fear of mistakes."

Graham's Chemical Catechism.—p. 7.

"A, B, C, is a balance;—D, a glass jar about six inches in height, which contains pure distilled water. The mode of using this instrument is as follows:—let the solid, say for example a piece of *gold*, whose specific gravity is to be ascertained, be suspended by a fine hair, silk, or thread, from the scale B, and weighed in air; suppose it to weigh 48 grains: let it next, still suspended to the balance, be immersed in the distilled water, of the temperature of 60° Fahr. as represented in the annexed figure; the scale containing the weight will now preponderate; add therefore to the scale B, as many grain weights as may be necessary to restore the equilibrium; suppose that 6 grains are required for this purpose, then this will indicate the amount of the weight lost in the water. We now divide the real weight of the body in air, viz. 48 grains, by this loss, 6 grains, which gives us 8 as the specific gravity of the body under examination."

Paris's Medical Chemistry.—p. 41.

"B, C, D, is a balance;—E, a glass jar about 6 inches in height, which contains distilled or rain water. The mode of using this instrument is as follows:—Let the solid, say for example a piece of *common brimstone*, whose specific gravity is to be ascertained, be suspended by a fine hair, silk, or thread, from the scale C, and weighed in air; suppose it to weigh 12 grains; let it next, still suspended to the balance, be immersed in the distilled water of the temperature of 60° Fah. as represented in the annexed figure; the scale containing the weight will now preponderate; add, therefore, to the scale C, as many grain weights as may be necessary to restore the equilibrium; suppose that six grains are necessary for this purpose, then this will indicate the amount of the weight lost in the water. We must now divide the real weight of the body in air, viz. 12 grains, by this loss, 6 grains, which gives us 2 as the specific gravity of the body under examination."

The ingenious author in this theft has substituted A, B, C for B, C, D, and *common brimstone* for *gold*, and taken one-fourth of the proportions in order to give the experiment an appearance of originality.

We really have not patience to copy any more of such disgusting plagiarisms, from which not a single page is free. If any reader should be desirous of seeing a more extended analysis of this wretched work, we refer him to the third number of the Annals of Chemical Philosophy, edited by the scientific Mr. Maugham, Lecturer on Chemistry and Materia Medica. That gentleman concludes his analysis of the work with the following observation:—"We neither know nor care what cotemporary reviews may say of Dr. Graham, but our opinion is, that nothing short of discovering the philosopher's stone can ever remove the obloquy he has brought on himself by publishing his Chemical Catechism—a work which might have been compiled with more originality by a pupil of a year's standing."

Pilfering, although from a compilation which cost the author nothing but time, has ever been censured by the editors of *respectable* Reviews; but to take pages from *original* works, which cost the authors not only time, but much mental labour and close application, and to give the results of experiments which were conducted at as great an expense as his own, is, in our humble opinion, a crime equally black and detestable as that of robbing a man of his personal property, and such we are confident no *respectable* bookseller would countenance. Where, indeed, is the criminal difference between selling stolen goods, knowing them to be stolen, and selling a book knowing it to be made up of plagiarisms? Booksellers should, in these times, be cautious in allowing their names to appear in the title of a work before they are acquainted with its real merits, for the public have been so taken in by wretched compilations, that general readers are induced to purchase a work more from the respectability of the publishers than from a flattering review. The names of Cadell and Davies, of Longman and Co., and of Ridgway, are, to some, so high a recommendation, that they purchase every work published by them. We are convinced that the names of Joy, Hatchard, Simpkin and Co., were introduced into the title of Dr. Graham's Chemical Catechism, either without their consent, or before they were acquainted with its pilfered materials.

Some editors of periodicals have already been base enough to assist Dr. Graham in his disgraceful trade, by inserting a puffing account of his new book. In some we suspect the puffs crept in without the knowledge of the principal editors, and in others they were mere advertisements, artfully worded, so as to appear to the ignorant as coming from the editors. Even in a monthly work, professedly instituted for conveying *religious*

truths, (the Wesleyan Methodist Magazine,) the crafty Doctor, by means of his *religious* connexion, obtained insertion of a most flaming review of his wretched plagiarisms, ycleped, a System of *Modern* Domestic Medicine, in which this ignorant, and in the hands of those to whom it is recommended dangerous work, is represented as very superior to the Domestic Medicine of *Dr. Buchan, or any other work of the kind!!!* In order to entrap his unwary readers, this conscientious Reviewer does not hesitate to introduce an observation of his own as *an extract from the work, which does not appear in it!!!* So much for the regard to truth of a preacher of religious truths!!! This disgraceful trickery we have exposed in our analysis of the system of *modern* domestic medicine, considerable portions of which are taken from works published about *thirty years ago!!* The industrious plagiarist has also the effrontery to publish a testimony in favour of his book of plagiarisms by "a *respectable physician of York*"!! This respectable *physician* is no less a person than the late conscientious Mr. Mc Allum, a methodist preacher, a *physician*, we presume, to the soul!!

A lady has favoured us with some "Initial cases," of epilepsy which Dr. Graham has lately published as cured by his specific, but neither the name nor place of residence of a single patient has she been able to obtain, although she has made many urgent applications for only one. This specific we find to be Misseltoe powder!! For a bottle, the contents of which cost about nine pence, he has the conscience to charge two guineas, exclusive of the fee!! Had Parson Mc Allum a concern in this honourable trade? The Doctor's nostrums we shall notice in an early number.

Mr. JOHN ST. JOHN LONG.

In a late number we proposed to put Mr. Long's pretended "*new* and *successful* mode of treating pulmonary consumption to the test. Liberal and fair as our proposal was deemed by his friend Colonel Riley, we were abused for it by the learned gentleman, or rather his amanuensis, for offering to place patients under the care of a man whom we had represented as an impostor. We took no notice of this reprimand because we were sensible of deserving it, and it is with shame we acknowledge that we did propose to a consumptive young woman to give his treatment a trial; from whom we received a similar rebuke. Mr. Long, or rather his amanuensis, who is well versed in the "art and science" of quackery, after condemning us for making such a proposition, now asserts, in his public addresses, that the *challenge*, given by us, which he had accepted, we dare not carry into effect. The *proposal* is now represented as a *challenge!!!* If it were a challenge, why has not the curer of consumption fixed on three fair cases of pulmonary consumption, as proposed, for the experiment? This he will not dare to do. To our application for a reference to a person he has cured, whose case was real pulmonary consumption, he has paid no attention!! Now, really, most scientific and learned Mr. John St. John Long, if we have not been able to carry our proposition into effect, we have done what we consider to amount to the same thing; we have kept our eyes on five consumptive patients, who *voluntarily* placed themselves under your care, and whose cases you positively promised to cure. These cases we shall relate in our usual unvarnished, or as Mr. Jerdan would term it, "elegant style." The names of four of the patients are Hawes (the Rev. Mr.), Sylvester (a city gentleman of respectability), Bridge (a daughter of Capt. Bridge, of Harwich,) and Edwards. The name of the fifth, a clergyman, who resided near Harwich, we have forgotten. Now where are these patients? and if not "too intrusive," what is the amount of the fees you obtained from them under false promises? Their bodies are now in a state of decomposition to mingle with their mother earth, and their souls, we hope, are in a better world. Really the termination of these cases, and many more we could relate, strikes us with horror! What say you, most worthy Mr. Jerdan, Editor of the Literary Gazette, to them? What human misery have editors of some periodicals occasioned, by inducing consumptive patients, residing in the country, to undertake a journey to London, by their misrepresentations, to place themselves under the care of a person who is as ignorant of every department of medicine as his servant boy whom his trade has enabled him to decorate with a livery!!! The Rev. Mr. Hawes, a gentleman who was highly respected in the University of Cambridge for classic learning and genuine piety, had, for some time previously to his unfortunate application to Mr. John St. John Long, been under the care of Dr. Haviland, a scientific and observant physician of Cambridge, who by means of a low diet, a seton, and such medicines which the irritation in the lungs, the state of the stomach and bowels, &c. indicated, had fully succeeded in arresting the progress of the affection of the lungs. The patient not being satisfied to remain stationary, determined to place himself under the care of Mr.

John St. John Long, who assured him, that under his care his recovery was certain!!! He ordered him to adopt a diet in direct opposition to that which Dr. Haviland had recommended. Instead of living chiefly on vegetables, and avoiding stimulants, the "celebrated curer" ordered him to take meat for breakfast, dinner, and supper, and to substitute good ale for water!! From such a diet Mr. Hawes of course gained strength, but when his general health arrived to a certain pitch, the tubercular disease of the lungs advanced, the symptoms of which the "celebrated curer" assured him were most satisfactory indications of his ultimate recovery!! At length Mr. Hawes became so hoarse as nearly to lose his voice, which was gravely pronounced by Mr. John St. John Long, as a most encouraging circumstance!! "Very good," replied Mr. Hawes, with an expressive sneer, "if I had broken my leg in coming to you, you would have said it would have been a fortunate circumstance."!! The results of the unctuous friction opened the eyes of Mr. Hawes, but not till the "celebrated curer" had obtained from him upwards of 120 guineas!! By the advice of a medical friend he went to Jamaica, where, soon after his arrival, he discharged his debt to nature!! In a letter he wrote to a friend in London, on his death-bed, he says, "Legal proceedings should be adopted against that impostor, Long, to recover the money he obtained from me, under the false promises of effecting a cure."!!! What a disgrace to our police, that a man so ignorant of every branch of medicine, should be allowed, openly, to carry on such an infamous and cruel traffic with impunity.

The particulars of the other cases, with a few more, we shall give in our next number.

As a set-off to our reports of facts, Mr. John St. John Long has published seven cases, in which, it is stated, his treatment succeeded; not one of which was pulmonary consumption, and all of which, we have no doubt, run their course. In the first and strongest case, a Miss Sally Enterknap, of Cheddingfold, near Godalming, in Surrey, states, that during a visit in London, she was affected with a *brain* fever, and as it subsided, inflammation of the lungs came on, and the physician who attended her despaired of her recovery. After continuing seriously indisposed in the country, she again visited London (in *April last*) to consult Mr. John St. John Long, her cough being *at times exceedingly* violent, and the expectoration offensive and frequently mixed with blood. To this letter there is no date. In another, dated London, January 17, 1823, she says, "It is now six months since I left you a *cured patient*, and I have continued ever since in perfect health. My late physician declared my cure to be *miraculous, and that he had never seen a case of the kind before, (!!!)* and when he saw me *run up stairs*, he exclaimed, a miracle, a miracle!!!" She was then married to a Mr. Webb. Excellent: this case is published as one of consumption, and yet her physician declared that he had never seen such a case before!!! Not a word about emaciation!!! The case was clearly a simple affection of the lungs, following inflammation, and not pulmonary consumption. Really Mrs. Webb, we cannot believe that the physician who attended you in London ever despaired of your recovery, and we suspect neither the "cured *patient*," nor the "celebrated curer," will be so candid as to favour us with his name. That her physician in the country should pronounce her recovery from a complaint, a case of which he had never seen *before*, a miracle, after having been so long under the care of a man ignorant of medicine, is certainly not surprising. The fact is, we suspect Miss Sally, when she placed herself under the care of Mr. John St. John Long, had not perfectly recovered from the effects of the brain fever.

A Mr. Manley states that his daughter was cured of a "*pulmonary disease*" in the course of six weeks, and that after she had been under Mr. John St. John Long, she had grown nearly *a head* taller. Now, most learned Mr. Manley, there are upwards of twenty *pulmonary* diseases besides pulmonary *consumption;* and as it is to be hoped your daughter has grown wiser as well as taller, she will perhaps favour us with the name of the physician, or general practitioner, who had attended the case before she was placed under the care of Mr. Long.

A "Martha Hudson of London," (no street mentioned!!!) was also cured of a *pulmonary* complaint. In a letter, dated Hepperholm, near Halifax, in Yorkshire, (February 16, 1829,) Martha states, that she had stood the severity of the winter months astonishingly well, *though a cough* still *remains!!!* The pulmonary disease is cured, although her cough still remains!!! The other cases are so similar to the preceding ones, that it is unnecessary to notice them. Not one cure, which any person acquainted with the disease, would pronounce pulmonary consumption. The "celebrated curer of consumption," finding, that with all his ingenuity, and the craft of his

amanuensis, he will not be able to keep up the farce much longer, has announced the most important *lucky* discovery, that his mode of "curing pulmonary consumption" is applicable to other diseases; and as a proof of which, he has published a case "of *violent cold* and inflammation in the *throat*, attended with *almost* the loss of the power of respiration, and *of uttering a word*," in which, in the course of "*twenty minutes*," the efforts of Mr. John Saint John Long, succeeded in "*extracting* the inflammation; and in the evening of the same day, to the inexpressible joy of her husband, the patient came down stairs, and was "*able to converse*;" and, what is still more surprising, to eat and *drink*; and she really went out the next morning, without injury, &c. &c." !!! This patient being a female (the wife of Captain Grindley) the *fact* of her not being able to utter a *single* word is alone sufficient evidence of the serious nature of the attack, and the *fact of a complete cure* being effected in 20 *minutes*, is an indisputable proof of the *charming* influence of Mr. John St. John Long's curative powers!! This lady we are credibly informed, has been long subject to such attacks, to the great mortification of her husband and all those who have been charmed and edified by hearing her "converse." We are really surprised, the Captain should give his consent to the publication of so silly a letter. The Captain is a Wine Merchant, and Mr. John Saint John Long, has generally a party of puffers of both sexes to dine with him. We would advise the Captain not to countenance Quackery, because some may be so ill-natured as to suppose that his Wine trade may not be *entirely* free from it.

The case which immediately follows Captain Grindley's ridiculous letter is one of EARS—certainly not Ass's. A case of deafness in a boy, attended with a purulent discharge from the ears, was cured by Mr. John Saint John Long's mode of treatment!!! Excellent; now if Mr. John Saint John Long be also a "curer" of deafness, why has he not cured his friend Captain Grindley, who has been afflicted with this malady many years?

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTE of HEALTH.

SIR,—Observing that one of the objects of your very valuable publication is, to expose the fraudulent practices of dealers in articles of diet, as well as in pretended "*infallible* specifics," I am encouraged to send you a few *facts*, with which I have become either directly or indirectly acquainted. You have frequently exposed the infamous quackery of some wine-merchants, which I believe to be more extensive than is generally imagined. Different wines are now manufactured at the Cape in imitation of port, sherry, and several other wines, which are in demand in this country, champagne (not Mr. Wright's, *of course*) not excepted. These wines, it is true, are not sold for the wines which they are made to imitate, but they are *very freely* used for the purpose of adulterating them. There are some auctioneers who purchase any trash to sell by the hammer; and by means of a puff, which is now termed the "philippic direct," many thousand dozens are sold as *old* wines, under names by which they scarcely have any other title than similarity of colour! A particular friend of mine lately purchased, at a public sale by the hammer, a quantity of "*super-excellent clarets*," at the rate of 50*s.* a dozen, which, on delivery, his butler discovered to be the same wine he had exchanged with a wine-merchant, at the rate of 20*s.* a dozen, being what is termed pricked!!! The worthy Baronet complained of the imposition, but the auctioneer would not listen to him. He had tasted it previously in bidding for it, and that was enough for him!! My friend, unfortunately, has a bad discriminating taste for wine *before* dinner, but a very good one *after* dinner.

A quantity of new port wine, the colour of which was nearly destroyed by alum, &c. was sold by the same man for *old tawny Port wine*, at the rate of 56*s.* per dozen, for which he had given 16*s.* Before I was up to this trickery, I purchased some wine, which was puffed off by the same man as *old* Madeira, which I found to contain vinegar and lead!!! The bacon and butter trade is not free from imposition. Many thousand tons of bacon and hams are sold in this metropolis, annually, as "*fine new Hampshire bacon, and fine Yorkshire hams*," more than are received from those counties; but although nearly all the bacon-merchants are supplied with bacon from Ireland, none sell *Irish* bacon. The bacon is sent to this country by the Irish merchants as soon as it is taken out of pickle (generally a very filthy composition), and when it arrives in this country, the very appearance and smell of it excite disgust, and even nausea. Nearly all the wholesale dealers in London have large rooms for smoking bacon, and after the flitches have been exposed to the warm smoke of wood for a few days, they have a fine fresh smoky appearance and smell, and are then exhibited as fresh *Hampshire* bacon, which, to give the "Devil his due," they sell at nearly half the price at which bacon can be purchased in Hampshire. The small Irish hams are doctored in the same manner, but the large ones are simply dried and sold for fine fresh Yorkshire or Westmoreland!!! I have certainly met with very excellent bacon in Ireland, but most of the pigs killed for the English market are fed on fish, or flesh, in any state that can be obtained; and some when taken out of the pickle has a peculiar stinking smell, and the fleshy part is often loaded with small tubercles (or morbid productions), termed by butchers "*measles*." That such bacon is unfit for the food of man, I think cannot admit of a doubt. Of all dealers in the necessaries of life, I have found fishmongers the most crafty and dishonest.—*To be continued.*

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

VOL. XIV.] TO JUNE 1, 1829. [No. 162.

On the PHYSICAL and MORAL MANAGEMENT of CHILDREN, by DR. DEWEES, of Philadelphia.

(*Continued from page* 506.)

ON THE NURSERY.

THE room selected for this important office is often the most exceptionable part of the building. It is usually selected because it is "handy," or because it is the only one that can be spared; without the smallest attention to its fitness for the purpose.

A nursery should be spacious, with a high ceiling, and perfectly dry; that is, it should not be exposed to the operation of any cause that may render it damp; as on a ground floor; too much shaded by trees; or placed beyond the occasional influence of the sun. Its windows should be tight, and the walls dry; the floor should be of wood that will quickly dry, after being wetted for the purposes of cleanliness; but the utmost care should be taken not to hasten this process by burning charcoal in it. Serious mischief has frequently been done by this practice.

It should be so situated that the door or doors shall not open immediately on staircases, or should this unavoidably be the case, the heads of the stairs should be secured by latticed half-doors, and the latices so constructed and placed perpendicularly, so that a child cannot climb upon them, and thereby defeat their object.

The windows should have cross-bars placed before them: they may be five inches distant from each other, that the windows may be opened for the purpose of ventilation, without apprehension, and without danger of accident to the child. They should have shutters, that the room may be darkened, when the abstraction of light becomes necessary. The windows should not have curtains of a glaring colour, as the light will be increased thereby, and prove injurious to the eyes of young children.

It should be divided into two parts, opening into each other. This would yield very great advantages; the children may retire to one part while the other is ventilating, or getting cleaned by washing or sweeping, which would contribute greatly to their comfort, as well as to their health. They would also be removed from the dangers of damp, the inconvenience of dust, the risks from a cold stream of air, while the room is drying or sweeping, besides having an enlarged space for the exercise of their limbs. In a space so extensive as this, they could improve their strength by engaging in many little sports which children are so ingenious to devise, when they cannot, from the condition of the weather, take exercise in the open air.

Such an arrangement will allow of the children having a room fresh and sweet in the morning, after having rendered the other foul by sleeping in it. This is an advantage which has been but too little attended to, notwithstanding its obvious utility especially to the

younger children, who cannot always escape into the fresh air in other parts of the house.

A carpet in cold weather is decidedly useful, if it be properly managed, that is, well shook and aired every week. By this means the dust is removed from it, and it has the advantage of becoming dry by exposure. I am sensible that several objections may be raised against carpeting a nursery; as the great quantity of dust they accumulate; their becoming often wet, without the chance of drying; their retaining grease so fixedly as not to be removed; their absorbing, and then giving out a variety of impurities, &c. But notwithstanding all these reasonable objections, I am persuaded that one single advantage which they possess in a nursery overbalances all that may be said against them—namely, their protecting the heads and limbs of children from injury when they fall.

The elastic material (wool) of which the carpet is formed, is well calculated to break the force of the blow which the head or limbs of the child receive, when it falls upon it; so much so is this the case, that we have not known a single instance of serious injury from falls upon them. My anxiety is always diminished, when called to a child who has received a blow upon the head from a fall, on being informed it fell upona carpet. I am therefore of opinion, that when the child falls from a moderate height, it will rarely, if ever, suffer a serious injury from it—this certainly would not be the case, did the child fall upon the naked floor.

I must, however, be understood to recommend carpets in cold weather only; for so soon as the weather becomes sufficiently warm to do without fire, the carpet should be removed, and its place supplied by an even, well stretched mat; or the floor may even be left bare; for at this period, it is to be presumed, children will be but little confined to the nursery, unless the state of the weather prohibits their enjoying the open air; this state of the weather may consist in its being wet, too windy, or too hot.

The furniture of a nursery should be as little in quantity as convenience will permit, that the children may have the space that would be unnecessarily occupied by many articles; especially chairs and tables. It should therefore consist of the beds for the children and nurse, or I would rather say mattresses, as I am of opinion feather beds are improper, for the following reasons:—firstly, they are too warm for the purposes of health, especially with feeble children; accumulating so much heat, as to unduly stimulate the whole cuticular system; thus giving rise to unnecessary, nay, injurious perspiration; secondly, the effluvium from feathers is extremely oppressive, particularly in warm weather, especially to children of feeble lungs; thirdly, they discharge a prodigious quantity of dust, intermixed with minute portions of down, occasioning cough and other inconveniences.

If an objection be made to mattresses as too cold in our climate for winter, it may be removed by spreading a blanket over the mattress.

Children should sleep in separate beds; and these should be large; for it is injurious to have them cramped when they sleep. Besides, *the degree of* heat accumulated by contact generally makes them

so uncomfortable, they throw off the bed clothes, and thereby expose each other to cold.

Children should never have more bed clothes spread over them than are sufficient to maintain a proper degree of warmth; if more be put upon them, they become oppressed, or perspire; both of which should be avoided.

Should I not, however, succeed in establishing my objections against feather beds in *winter*, I am persuaded every body will agree in the use of mattresses during *hot* weather. Should these not be at command, the sacking bottom, or even the floor, should be substituted —for almost any thing is preferable to feathers.

It is in the nursery, in a great measure, that the habit of early or late rising is generated—this is a matter of much importance; and the greatest regularity should be observed, that a proper one is formed. Children should therefore retire at a regular and sufficiently early hour, to insure their early getting up; for beyond a certain time sleep is injurious. It would, however, be a little difficult to establish a general rule, as some children, like adults, require more sleep than others. Children who take much exercise, require more sleep than those who take little; consequently they should not be confined to precisely the same number of hours.

All children are naturally disposed to rise early, this propensity should therefore be encouraged by permitting them to retire sufficiently early to bed; and after they are in bed, they should not be allowed to keep each other awake by playing: for the same reason, no noisy employment should be permitted in the nursery, that the children need not be disturbed. Indeed it would be best, when children have attained their third year, or even before, that they should not be allowed even light in their rooms, that they need not unnecessarily be kept from sleep, as well as to prevent any apprehension from being left in the dark.

When children first awake in the morning, however early this may be, provided it be after daylight, they should be allowed to get up, and be dressed; for if this be not done, and they are forced to lay longer than is pleasant to themselves, they will become fretful and dissatisfied, or again fall to sleep—in either case a real evil is induced; in the first, the disposition of the child is injured; and in the second, a habit of lying too long is generated.

It should be carefully guarded against, that no unnecessary habits are indulged in during the period set aside for sleep; such as drinking water several times in the night, or rising too often to discharge the contents of the bladder. If the first be indulged in, an artificial thirst will be created; if the second, the bladder acquires a preternatural degree of irritability, which will not admit of much distension, which is almost sure to terminate in the habit of wetting the bed.

A cradle for young children is a very important appendage to a nursery, notwithstanding the objections which have been made against it, by ingenious speculators on the subject of the physical education of children. The advantages of a cradle are, 1stly, it can be placed in any situation of the room, without disturbing the child, for the advantage of either warmth or coolness, for light or darkness, or for

air; 2dly, it supplies the most gentle and certain anodyne, if we may so term it; since it will amuse by its motion when the child is placed in it awake; lull by its sameness when disposed for sleep; and perpetuate it, when desirable, by a familiarity with its action: for it must be recollected, that for nine months previous to birth the child has been indulged in the gentlest motion, in the fluid in which it constantly swims; consequently, the motion of a cradle would seem to be but a continuation of an exercise it had been long used to.

The objections to the use of the cradle are easily obviated. It is said, it may produce fatuity by constantly shaking the brain; this could not possibly happen unless the cradle were violently agitated; in which case, it would be the abuse of the cradle that should be objected to, since no such consequence could possibly follow its proper use: for did gentle agitation do mischief to the organization or functions of the brain, why are not all children born fatuitous, since this organ is subjected to it from its earliest formation? Another objection is urged, which is as easily obviated; it is said the child runs much risk by its liability to overset—now it must be by the employment of extreme violence, or carelessness, that this can be rendered an objection to the cradle; for certain it is, the proper use of this machine can never be attended by such a consequence.

In using the cradle, however, I would suggest certain precautions, that it may not be converted into an improper machine. I would forbid all violent motions of it; since it would not only defeat the objects for which it is employed, but might be attended by the risk of oversetting. The motion of the cradle should be made an efficient means to procure rest; and should therefore not be so constantly used as to lose its effects, by too frequently employing it; nor should its influence ever be taken advantage of, to procure more than the necessary degree of sleep, as it may tend to the disadvantage of the child; nor should we think the cradle necessary to children much beyond the second year, as at this time their exercise will dispose them to sleep soundly without it.

The means by which the nursery is warmed is not a matter of indifference. Two important objects should always be kept in view in constructing it—namely, security from accident to the children; and, secondly, its affording sufficient warmth.

These may be secured by an open fire of wood, or coal, protected by a high and substantial fender of wire, that the children may not approach it too nearly; or by a stove placed near the hearth, and defended by an iron railing. I, however, should never advise the stove, where an open fire can be made use of with equal advantage as regards heat; and I believe coal secures to us this desirable end, with more security than any other method.

The objections to a stove are numerous, and deserve a serious attention—1stly, there is great danger that the children may get severely burnt, as I have often witnessed; 2dly, it is almost always too much heated; 3dly, the air is rendered too dry by a destruction of its moisture, and becomes impure by the burning of millions of the little particles which are constantly floating in it; and though one of *these objections* may be partially obviated by placing water upon the

stove, yet it will not remove the second: 4thly, the air is almost constantly injured by substances thrown upon the stove, as grease, meat, &c.; 5thly, there is always a temptation to do some kind of cooking upon or in a stove, to the annoyance of the comfort, or the injury of the health, of the little inhabitants of the nursery, besides the serious risk of scalding them by heating water upon it. I lately saw an instance of death from this cause, and have witnessed many times minor accidents from the same source.

Having already forbidden the performance of a number of operations in the nursery, I shall merely reiterate, that the nursery should be the purest place in the house, as well as the one in which the children should take most delight. It should never be made a place of punishment, by banishing children to it for any little delinquency or inadvertence they may have been guilty of—but, on the contrary, a temptation should constantly present itself in the nursery, by making it the place of amusement; children will then bear being placed there, without considering it a place of confinement, or one in which they are to experience privations.

Among the proper provisions of a nursery I should reckon a small backgammon table, with men, but without dice. Children, so soon as they are capable of comprehending the subject should be taught draughts, or checkers. This game is not only highly amusing, but is also very instructive, as it calls forth the resources of the mind in the most gentle, as well as in the most successful manner. It becomes a source of endless amusement, as it never tires, and always instructs.

The game of battledore and shuttlecock is also a proper one for the nursery; this gives great agility as well as great vigour to every muscle in the body. It exercises with but little fatigue; it gives great practical accuracy to the eye and to the hand; while the mind is agreeably amused. A large cup and ball also afford great opportunities for skill as well as excites an agreeable emulation to excel.

(To be continued.)

PRACTICAL MEDICINE.

REMARKS ON INCIDENTAL DISEASES, &c., COMMUNICATED BY DR. KINGLAKE, OF TAUNTON.

(Continued from page 534.)

The Cutaneous Surface.—This highly sensitive and vascular fabric not only envelopes the exterior of the animal frame, but is continued by a sort of reflected extension throughout the whole alimentary canal. The only difference seems to be in the epidermic or scarf-covering on the external surface, which not being required, does not exist in the internal membranous investment. It is not unusual for the diseases of the skin to proceed to the membranous lining of the mouth, gullet, stomach, and intestines, inducing much inflammatory distress, occasional breach of surface, and even ulcerative decomposition of structure, terminating in inevitable loss of life. A case of erysipelatous inflammation commencing on the face, lately fell under my observation, in which the extended ailment referred to, proved destructive, after a long course of severe suffering.

Another similar instance of diffused affection is now under my

direction, in which erysipelatous inflammation, first occupying the face and scalp, proceeded to the mouth and throat, where its progress terminated, and the patient soon after became convalescent. The sympathetic correspondence subsisting between the skin and the interior of the first passages is very direct and active. This is clearly evinced in the manner in which diseased sensations and conditions are reciprocated between the two structures. The similarity and uninterrupted continuance of texture, and of course excitability, obtaining between those parts, necessarily subject them to the same laws of vital influence, and those are operative both in health and disease, and will therefore govern the agency of remedial means in all instances of morbid affection.

The alimentary canal is the grand site and highway of the digestive process. Whatever collateral aids are afforded, the chief part of the function is performed in that tubular cavity. The state of the external skin therefore, cannot fail to be influential in the digestive process; and it is accordingly found, that an open and undisturbed condition of the cutaneous surface is essential to healthful digestion. Hence, muscular exertion, tepid and cold bathing, regular ablution, and general friction of the skin, are powerful auxiliaries in relieving and curing dyspeptic affections.

Specific excitability.—This condition of vital power belongs to every diversity of structure in the animal frame, and is most evident in the vital organs. Independently of the peculiarity of function appertaining to dissimilar structure, there is in each distinct texture a disposition and capacity for being excited differently from any other part not similarly constructed. Thus it is that the specific excitability obtaining in different tissues are correspondently affected by the actions of health as well as by those of disease; and to be enabled to form a correct estimate, it will be necessary to attend to the characteristic peculiarities arising from various structures, and to the specific excitability generated by and emanating from them.

Every variety of structure in the animal frame is peculiarly and appropriately affected by the vital power inherent in it. This provision capacitates it for the specific efficacy resulting from it, and although it confines it to its especial use; yet it connects it in associative or sympathetic union with every other part of the system. The specific effect of remedies on certain structures, evinces the existence of a corresponding susceptibility for such agency. The general principle of excitability pervading the frame, may be justly regarded as the generic state of vital power, which becomes variously modified and conditioned by the dissimilar structure, in strict accordance with the precise arrangement in which it is excited. Thus the vital power which, through the medium of hepatic structure, produces bile, in that of the kidneys, generates urine; in the brain, nervous energy; in the stomach, the gastric secretion, the digestive function, and the various irritative and sentient influences extended over the system.

The more or less evident difference occurring in every individual instance of the general and specific states of vital power, renders it impossible that it should be similarly affected by the same agency. *Hence* the visionary and impracticable object of attempting the cure

of diseases by one and the same mode of treatment. The practical diversity of remedy must adapt itself to the occurring occasion, and the curative powers of the medicinal agent, can only be ascertained and determined by an adequate and discriminative trial of its efficacy.

Visceral Phthisis.—This condition of disease is not exclusively confined to the pulmonary organ, but may originate in deep and unyielding affections of the stomach and liver. Instances are constantly presenting of the truth of this opinion; and the cases that are justly referable to different visceral sources are not sufficiently distinguished and explained. The notion of pulmonary consumption, in its advanced stages, being without hope of recovery, arising from the irreparable nature of the structural mischief that has been produced, is but too true; but this discouraging persuasion is not due to the apparently similar affections, proceeding from morbid disturbance in the respective functions, and indeed structure of the stomach and liver.

In the two latter sorts of disease, training on to the seeming character of pulmonary affection, much may be reasonably attempted towards affording curative relief. It is the usual course for stomachic, as well as hepatic phthisis, to be disturbed by more or less of cough, owing to the lungs having been sympathetically involved in the ailment. This symptom, on those occasions, is too apt to inculpate the lungs as the primary seat of disease, and to induce the forlorn and delusive speculations as to the event, that are generally due to idiopathic pulmonary consumption. The difference however is visceral, and the result may be favourable in the exact ratio in which the diseases of those different organs are more or less curable.

Stomachic phthisis emanates from dyspeptic malady, and can only be beneficially treated by endeavouring to restore the digestive function to its healthful state, whilst hepatic phthisis equally requires the closest attention to the biliary and transmitting offices of the liver. To allay and subdue the prevailing morbid excitement, in the one case and in the other, is possible; and neither should be regarded as partaking of the incurable nature of pulmonary phthisis.

In these cases, subacute or chronic inflammation usually exists, endangering structural derangement. The most availing remedies are friction with a flesh-brush over the abdominal region, two or three times a-day, during half an hour at each rubbing, so as to produce and sustain a uniformly efflorescent state of the skin, abstracting weekly about four ounces of blood, and administering two grains of extract of hyoscyamus, and three of the blue pill, every night and morning, until slight ptyalism be induced. The tincture of iodine, perseveringly continued, has also proved beneficial in those specious but unreal cases of phthisis pulmonalis.

Pulmonary Consumption Infectious.—Several instances have occurred to the writer, in which infection appeared to have obtained in this disease. No complaint, perhaps, awakens more sympathy, or engages more unremitted personal attendance, than pulmonary consumption. The disease usually endures long, and under commiserating circumstances that induce an assiduity and closeness

of personal services that expose the attendant to any existing noxiousness in the exhalations from the lungs, skin, and the various other secretions.

That these emanations from declining vital power and diseased action may hurtfully impregnate the atmosphere immediately surrounding the patient, is highly probable, and that they may occasion a morbid affection of the mucous membrane investing the bronchial structure is also conceivable. Protracted attendance on pulmonary invalids has a tendency to undermine the general strength, to diminish mental energy, to impair the appetite and digestion, and thus to lay the foundation of destructive disease.

The sacrifice of health and life on these unhappy occasions, may be generally prevented by a cautiously regulated personal intercourse with the afflicted. The sphere of infection in those instances can neither be extensive in its range, nor active in its influence; and may therefore be eluded by abstaining from being continually near the patient, and breathing the air which may have been contaminated by unhealthy exhalations. The offices of humanity and the duties of self-preservation, in these calamitous circumstances, are compatible with each other, and may be practically observed without either risk to the attendant or neglect to the patient.

Apoplexy.—This affection occurs much more frequently after an oppressive dinner or supper meal than at any other time. The mechanical distention of the stomach, when unduly filled with alimentary substances, is apt to press on the descending trunk of the aorta, and to impede the free transmission of blood through it. The loaded and disordered action of the stomach, also sympathetically affects the capillary vessels of the brain, in common with those of every other part of the system, by which their circulating power becomes enfeebled, their cavities unduly distended, and an aggravated state of oppressive collapse ensues. In those circumstances, apoplectic disease arises; and if the existing cause be not speedily removed by direct and adequate vascular depletion, an extinction of life would be the probable result.

There is no condition of stomach fraught with more evil than a distended fulness beyond its contractile power to overcome, and its digestive function to subdue. The mechanical pressure which it casts on the liver, spleen, diaphragm, and kidneys, added to the stimulating influence of the various acrid substances arising from the unhealthy decompositions that ensue, inflicts an ailment not less complicated than severe.

The whole of this distressing affection, as well in its immediate as in its distant effects, might be obviated by resolute and undeviating moderation in the quantity of aliment taken. The bulk of nutriment taken into the stomach is of far more importance than the quality of the article. The former, if excessive, becomes an oppressive grievance; the latter is met and relieved by digestive decomposition.

Alcohol has its victims, but an almost equal extent of human life *is immolated* by obtruding on the stomach indigestible materials.

No instance has occurred in my observation, of apoplexy of the oppressive and plethoric kind, in which it has not been referable to a disordered state of the first passages, either in respect to immoderate eating and drinking, and consequent indigestion, or to deficient alvine evacuations.

In very old and exhausted persons, an apoplectic termination of life may proceed from the cerebral function being so diminished in energy as not to generate the nervous power that is requisite to vital existence. This may indeed be truly said to be a privation of life from sheer deficiency of power, and is perhaps the cessation of the animated state that is most natural, and therefore the most desirable.

Leeches.—These little animals being in constant requisition for the local abstraction of blood, it is a circumstance of importance to be assured that their topical application may be so regulated as to be quite secure from incurring injury. The quantity of blood removed by leeching must be determined by the occasion for which it is instituted; but under all circumstances, it is most material that it should be harmlessly effected. This may be done by exclusively confining the use of the same leeches to one person, and in no case to allow them to be applied to another. Instances have actually occurred, of diseases having been transferred, and as it were, inoculated by leeches that have been kept for general use, and have been actually employed on different individuals. These animals, in burrowing into the skin, may have their mouths imbued with any communicable virus that may be existing in it. It is hardly indeed conceivable, that there is any infectious quality in the blood that could be imparted by leeching; but it is possible that a vitiated state of the exhalent and other secretions of the cutaneous fabric, may be taken up and inserted by the penetrating bite of the leech. What this contaminating quality may be, is uncertain, and another question; but that any such morbid consequence might result from the remedial use of a seemingly inoffensive operation, is a consideration that merits at least the preventive caution here suggested.

Vital Power.—This principle is generated and sustained by the animalized arrangement of matter. Its motive property is excitability, the two leading functions of which are, sensation and irritation. These conditions are influenced by specific agencies, but they are so mutually dependent on each other, that they could not exist separately.

The diseases of sensation may be regarded as sensitive—those of irritation as irritative. These several morbid states may respectively prevail with either increased or diminished power.

Sensitive, irritative, inflammatory, functional, and structural diseases, comprehend every occurring diversity of morbid action. The individual or constitutional varieties may be as extensive as the subjects affected by them.

No two persons are acted on precisely alike in degree and form, though the essential similarity may verge on identity itself. Morbid action, elementarily considered, is simply a deviation from

healthy excitability; but it is formally constituted by a great variety of organic and motive agencies. These however, are of more importance in their aggregate than in their separate effect.

Taunton, April 4, 1829.

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTE of HEALTH.

OBSERVATIONS ON ST. VITUS'S DANCE.

By EDWARD HARRISON, M. D. F.R.A.S. Ed.

INTRODUCTION.—I have lately published four cases* of Chorea, (Saint Vitus's Dance,) in your useful and widely circulated periodical. Each of them was ushered into notice with a few supplementary remarks. These were intended to prepare the way for what I have to communicate on the subject of spasmodic diseases, and more especially to establish the paramount influence of the spinal nerves over all the functions and operations of living beings.

It will, I conceive, be unnecessary, after detailing the cases, and calling the reader's attention to the new lights which have lately illumined the medical horizon in this department, to employ many words to convince the faculty *that this order of nerves has been too much overlooked in our physiological researches. So far from being reduced to discharge the inferior and subordinate offices usually assigned to them, we may with truth aver, that the most important and complicated are under their immediate control and management.* The extensive range, or rather ubiquity, of the spinal nerves is well known to anatomists. Even the hardest bones offer no insuperable resistance; because we can not only trace them into that structure, but perceive that whenever they are hurt, pain, tenderness, and inflammation ensue, from which it is manifest, that nerves are spread through them. But if nerves are found in the most solid and compact substances, their presence is easily detected in soft and vascular parts.

Since, then, all our functions, whether we be in the enjoyment of sound health, or afflicted with illness, are dependent upon the nervous system, it is in fact the great regulator of life. While it remains in good order, the corporeal faculties are duly exercised. When it languishes, the body suffers; and when it fails, death ensues.

We must therefore look to the nervous power alone for the seat of disease, and for the operation of all remedies. Whatever may be the exciting cause, or however various the symptoms, both are traceable to this all-powerful organ. After the morbid actions have subsisted long enough to produce structural changes, the complaint assumes a new character, and requires different treatment. The former state is exclusively medical, and the latter as entirely surgical. This is the only proper sub-division of the medical profession; and in a science too extended for the grasp of any human mind, it would conduce to the interests of the sick, and advantage of medical knowledge, to preserve the distinction inviolable.

* See the Numbers of the *Gazette of Health*, for March, April, and May last.

With these introductory remarks, I return to the further consideration of chorea.

The pathology of this distressing complaint is encompassed with extraordinary difficulties; because all our inquiries into the physical properties of living matter are of necessity limited in their scope. While the actions are obvious to the senses, the moving power is unseen, and often inscrutable. The finest instruments and most powerful lenses are insufficient auxiliaries. Hence our researches are necessarily imperfect and discordant. Still, although we may be unable to remove the veil and unfold the mysteries of animated nature, we can make approaches, and establish some fundamental truths, for our guidance and direction.

There is an established principle of the nervous system, which will help us to lessen the obscurity of chorea, and to account for the remote separation between the seat of primary irritation and the muscular spasms, which constitute, perhaps, its most embarrassing feature.

This principle actuates the whole series of organs engaged in a common function, and is more especially observed at its extreme points. In whatever part of the chain the morbid action commences, the chief suffering is in the extremities. I have several times noticed this law of the animal economy, when treating of the symptoms in particular cases.

We see a foundation laid, in the anatomical structure of the nervous fabric, for an intimate communication between the most remote parts, though we may not be able to trace the particular course by which the impulse is conveyed, or to disentangle it from others, with which it is inseparably connected. I have already drawn largely upon this principle, and shall take occasion to refer to it again and again, in prosecuting the subject of spinal deformity.

History of St. Vitus's Dance.—Chorea seizes indiscriminately upon the youth of both sexes, usually between the tenth and fourteenth year, and harasses them with convulsive motions. They are partly voluntary, and are generally confined to one side of the body, displaying themselves in ridiculous gesticulations of the arms and hands, as well as in the patient rather dragging than lifting up one of his feet in walking. The mental faculties are occasionally affected in a slight degree.

Diagnosis.—The muscular exhibitions in chorea are conspicuous and apparent at the first glance. The absence of fever, of coma, or delirium, and of muscular debility, will always show the real character of the malady, and prevent our confounding it with primary affections of the brain. We must carefully distinguish it from the convulsive agitations of the head in old people—from the tremors which follow certain complaints of the brain—and such as proceed from excess in venery. Nor must it be mistaken for the tremulous motions of dram drinkers, or workers in lead or mercury.

The circumstances most favourable to the display of chorea are, infancy, the female sex, a delicate and irritable frame, also an hereditary or acquired predisposition to spasmodic emotions.

The occasional causes are, first, such as act upon the sensorium commune. Of these a sudden fright is one of the most common. Gusts of passion will frequently induce it, as do great disappointments, jealousy, &c. Impressions thus made upon the brain, having been conveyed along the medulla oblongata to the spinal chord, rouse certain nervous trunks, and, through them, particular muscles, into those extraordinary gesticulations which are characteristic of chorea.

2dly, Such as act upon the minute nervous expansions. Among these may be enumerated—derangement in the stomach and bowels; excess in venereal enjoyments; the odious vice of masturpation; intestinal worms likewise occasion it; and, according to some, the irritation of teething. Chorea is also the sequel of many disorders, particularly epilepsy and hysteria.

In addition to the causes already mentioned, we ought, I think, to include a new stimulus, formed in the generative organs. At a certain age, varying considerably in different individuals and countries, a striking alteration commences in both sexes, which employs several years to complete its full maturation. This change is distinguished by obvious bodily signs, as well as in the disposition of the mind. With boys, the tone and modulation of the voice undergo an extraordinary change. A down covers the chin, which becomes at length a thick and bristly beard. The personal form is more robust. In girls, the mammæ enlarge, and the menses burst forth. In both sexes, the pudenda are clothed with hair. The propensities are no longer the same. The amusements of the child cease to please the youth; other employments and pursuits are substituted for them. The full development of the genital organs usually occupies a series of years. The testes, in men, and ovaria, in females, gradually increase, and at a certain period of expansion, become capable of forming a peculiar fluid. This secretion, so necessary to the continuation of the species, produces very important effects upon the individuals who furnish it. Several complaints disappear under its influence, and others are substituted. In delicate habits, nervous diseases often commence at this period, being roused into action by the irritation of a novel excitement. After the constitution is fully displayed, and the habit has been sometime accustomed to the impulse, its nerves are rendered less sensitive, and the diseases so produced gradually disappear. Of these chorea is one of the most common and remarkable. It is evident from many circumstances, that the evolution of the genitals, and formation of an unusual irritation, operate powerfully upon the nervous fibrils. The impressions made upon these nervous fibrils, from this and other causes, being carried to the spinal chord, and from it along other nervous branches, to particular muscles, they are forced to display those spasmodic actions which we denominate chorea.

3dly, Besides impressions directed to the brain, and nervous expansions, it would seem that another set of exciting causes, acting directly upon the spinal chord, (or its nervous trunks,) in the lumbar region, occasionally produces chorea. The first and third cases are examples of this disease in its perfect form. In both, the

chorea manifested its dependence upon the spinal column. However long the first patient reposed upon a flat surface, she continued well. But after she had remained upright only a few hours, the chorea returned with unabated severity. The anxious mother was so fully convinced of its connexion with the back, that she expected to remove the predisposition by lengthened recumbency. After she had made the trial, and been disappointed in her expectations, she had recourse to my assistance. As a proof of the correctness of her opinion, the vertebræ were no sooner replaced than the chorea entirely disappeared, and has never returned.

In the other instance, its relation to the spinal chord was equally striking. The chorea had tormented the delicate sufferer for such a short period before suppuration was established, that we must, I think, impute its origin to the inflammatory action of some tissue within the lumbar theca, or sacrum. The phlogistic diathesis, irritating the spinal chord, produced all the distressing symptoms under which she laboured, till the pus burst through one of the sacral holes.* She was then speedily and effectually relieved from all her severe afflictions. That the chorea really proceeded from confined pus, does not, I think, admit of any doubt, because the enclosed fluid was scarcely evacuated before the disease left her, and convalescence became apparent. The suddenness of the transition leads to a conviction of the cause, and justifies the opinion I have embraced. Could no further evidence be adduced in favour of the above doctrine, I think these two cases fully warrant the conclusion, that irritations, applied directly to the spinal chord and nervous trunks, in the foramina vertebrarum, will, like excitants operating upon the brain and minute nervous fibrils, sometimes produce genuine chorea.

Proximate Cause.—Whatever may be the primary or exciting cause of chorea, the altered function, the morbid lesion, or proximate cause, is always fixed in the spinal chord, or organ of motion. In this instance, all the remote causes meet, and from it the symptoms proceed.

A careful observance of the laws of the living frame is not only necessary in chorea, but is far superior to dissections, valuable as they undoubtedly are in many respects. They show us, among other things, how variously we are affected, and how much we are capable of enduring. In every attempt to trace a regular connexion between symptoms and appearances after death, many links remain concealed, which our limited faculties are unable to discern. For example, dissection has hitherto reflected no light upon the essence of fever, though it constitutes the chief part of so many diseases, and has occupied the attention of physicians from the most remote period to the present time. Nor has it led us to a better acquaintance with the nature of eruptive complaints, of contagions,

* In reply to my inquiries, I received the following answer: "I cannot venture, at the distance of twelve years, to fix positively upon the exact spot out of which the pus was discharged. According to the best of my recollection, it came through the sacrum, from one of its foramina situated on the right side."

or of the innumerable ailments to which human beings are exposed. Yet we must not be unmindful of its benefits. It has not only taught us to distinguish with more certainty the seat of diseases, but also to understand the ravages committed upon the frame, and the alterations in structure produced by particular complaints. This is the chief of what we have learned by dissection, and the knowledge thus acquired is of such limited use, that no curative indications can be safely drawn from it alone. Nor can we, wholly ignorant as we are of the composition of the nervous energy in a state of health, presume to point out the alterations which it undergoes or the functional changes which take place during the choroid manifestations.

Inasmuch, then, as we can neither discover the proximate cause of any complaint by the most attentive dissection, nor penetrate into the laboratory of the nerves, or bring the fabricated material under review, we must be content to study the laws of animated nature, and regulate its aberrations by reiterated experience, and attentive observation.

The indications of cure are—

Firstly, To subdue phlogistic diathesis, if it be present. We learn, from the third case, that inflammatory action is sometimes the exciting cause. It must, when it occurs, be combated with the general and local remedies usually employed for that purpose.

2dly, To remove particular irritations.

In order to give full effect to this indication, we should endeavour to discover the exciting cause, and the exact spot where it is situated, and upon which it chiefly operates. Having gained this double information, we must proceed accordingly. Mental causes are to be overcome by suitable treatment, and corporeal irritants require their appropriate remedies. The various means best calculated to effect these different purposes, will occur to practitioners as the examples present themselves.

3dly, To obviate particular symptoms.

Besides the medicines above recommended, the state of the intestinal canal should be carefully regulated through the whole disease. All lodgments must be prevented, and excrementitious matters removed as they are formed. This precaution is more especially necessary when the disorder is situated in the bowels, the generative members, or other contiguous organs.

I have, on many occasions, found the happiest effects to arise from the soothing influence of the warm bath, after other expedients had failed. It is to be repeated, every second or third day, for a few minutes at a time, and of the temperature most agreeable to the patient.

In delicate or relaxed constitutions, I have known the bark and cold bath produce the best consequences. These, with change of air and of temperature, often effect a cure, where other remedies had been tried and had proved inefficacious.

Having, for the present, concluded my observations on chorea, and puerperal convulsions, I think I am warranted in maintaining,

that the spinal chord and nerves possess a greater range of inherent faculties than has hitherto been assigned to them. Whoever will give himself the trouble to examine into the truth of my several cases published in your journal, and especially in my "*Essay on Spinal Diseases*," must, as it appears to me, arrive at the same conclusion. It is quite apparent, from anatomy and multiplied experience, that the voluntary muscles are entirely, and all other parts of the body in a great measure, under the direction and management of the spinal apparatus. But if we can be once led to admit that the seat of chorea, and of puerperal convulsions, is in this organ, we may find, on pursuing the inquiry, that other convulsive disorders, now referred to the brain, are really affections of the spinal column.

DISTORTION OF THE LOWER EXTREMITIES.

(*Continued from page* 545.)

SIR,—As it is my intention to send you a series of cases, *which I have cured*, to prove that all the cases of distortions of the feet that have been usually called *varus*, may certainly be cured at any period of life between the birth and the time when the patient has arrived at maturity, I now send a remarkable case that was cured by me, and the cure was not begun till the patient was much older than either of those that has been mentioned.

I am, Sir, yours, &c. T. SHELDRAKE.

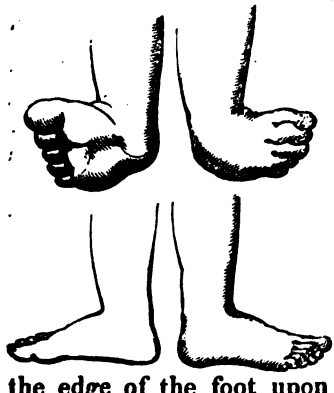
Devonshire Street, Portland Place.

A gentleman, who held the rank of captain in the East India Company's service, had a daughter by a native woman, who was born with both her feet distorted: as nothing could be done for her in that country, it was believed to be a mal-formation of such a nature that it was quite incurable, and for that reason she was suffered to run about at perfect liberty, in the care of a mother, who, from the nature of her situation, was a follower of the camp. In this situation she continued till she was three years old; in consequence of her course of life, she acquired much activity, but her feet became distorted much more than they were at the time of birth. When she was four years old, her father had a favourable opportunity of sending her to England, where she was placed under my care to have her feet returned to their natural state. She was, at that time, three years and a half old; she ran about with great activity; her feet were as much distorted as they could be, and most rigidly fixed in the position they had taken: both her feet were alike, the toes of each foot were turned directly inwards towards the toes of the other foot; the astragalus projected forwards before the tibia, and the os calcis was close to it on the back part. It was this peculiarity that produced an appearance which those who are not acquainted with the true cause of the defect, or the real structure and combination of the parts that are concerned in it, frequently describe by saying, the child has a very small heel, or sometimes by saying, that some of the bones of the foot are wanting. In these forms both the feet were rigidly fixed; they had not the least apparent motion, and there was a large callus formed upon the outer

edge of each foot, occasioned by her constantly walking upon those parts.

The operation of reducing the feet to their natural form was begun immediately, but, from their great rigidity, I saw them every day for fourteen months before that reduction was completed. The child suffered very little uneasiness from the process, and when it was so far completed, her feet had the same general form and position as the feet of other children which had not been distorted; she could walk upon them perfectly well when they were supported by proper instruments, but she could not walk upon them when she was not thus supported: when the support was removed, her feet immediately relapsed into their former position. She had not the power of regulating or directing the motion of either foot, so that if she had then been left without artificial support, or to the care of those who knew not how to manage that support, she would soon have relapsed into her original deformity.

To prevent this, I gave the requisite attention to the case for two years longer; at the end of that time she was able to walk as much and as well as any child of her age that had never been deformed, and there did not exist any one circumstance to indicate that her feet had ever been distorted. I saw her some years afterwards, when she remained in the same state, and I have lately been informed that she continues in the same condition.



When she first came under my care I had two casts taken in plaster of Paris from her feet as they then were, and when she was cured I had two other casts taken in the same material. I annex two drawings that were taken from one of the deformed feet; one shows the inside of the leg and the bottom of the foot, which was turned inwards while she stood with the edge of the foot upon the ground: the other is a view of the outside of the leg, showing the top of the foot which lies parallel to the outside of the leg, with the edge of the foot upon the ground. I annex, likewise, two drawings that were made from the cast of the same leg that was taken when the child was withdrawn from under my care. By comparing these drawings, it will be seen, how much alteration in the *form* of these legs was produced during the progress of the cure. I likewise give the measurements that were taken, to show the different dimensions of the same feet, in the deformed and in the restored state, viz.:

	Deformed Foot.	*Restored Foot.*
Length of the foot	5¼ Inches.	7⅛ Inches.
Circumference of the foot at the toes	6 ditto.	6¼ ditto.
Ditto at the heel and round the instep	8 ditto.	9 ditto.
Length of the leg, when standing, from the patella to the heel	9 ditto.	12¼ ditto.
Circumference of the leg at the smallest part	5¼ ditto.	5⅜ ditto.
Ditto at the largest part	8 ditto.	8¼ ditto.

It is to be observed, that all the variation in point of form that is shown by comparing these drawings, was produced by the process that was used in performing the cure; and the variation in point of *size* that is indicated by the measures that have been given, must be attributed partly to the alteration in point of form, but principally to the growth of the child during the three years the cure was going on.

If the two casts that were taken from either of these feet, were shown to any one who is not acquainted with the subject, it would be difficult for him to believe that they represented the same individual limb; the general shape of the whole, and the relative proportion of all the parts, so far as they can be seen upon the surface, differ so much from each other in those casts, that it would not be surprising if such individual should say it is impossible that they can truly represent the same individual limb; even professional men, who have not accurately investigated the subject, might form the same opinion: I have, indeed, been sometimes told with a sneer by some such, that if I could introduce bones which were wanting into the foot, or increase the size of those which were too small, I might succeed in curing such distortions; if I could not do this, it was quite impossible that I should succeed in performing such cures. As uniform success in the whole of my practice has proved that these opinions are erroneous, I will endeavour to explain the real circumstances in which these feet existed when they first came under my care, and the alterations that were produced in performing the cure.

In comparing the measurements of the two feet, it will be seen that they were increased two inches and one quarter in length during the progress of the cure; because in their originally deformed state, the metatarsal bones and bones of the tarsus were drawn together, something in the manner that we bend the fingers when we clench the hand; it is this peculiarity which gives roundness to the dorsum of the foot, and makes the foot *appear* to be preternaturally short and thick; but when the cure is complete, the metatarsal bones, the cuneiform bones, and the os cuboides are placed in their natural situations with respect to each other and to the tarsus, and then the foot assumes its natural form, so far as those bones are connected with it.

The shortness of the heel, as it has sometimes been called, is a deceptive appearance that is occasioned by the peculiar position that the bones of the tarsus have taken; the circular head of the astragalus passes directly forward, and forms the projecting and apparently thickened part of the foot: while it is in this state, the tibia necessarily rests upon the tarsus, partly behind the circular head of the astragalus, and partly on that part of the os calcis which, when the foot is in its natural position, forms the back of the heel; when the cure is complete, the tarsus is restored to its natural form and position on the ground; the os calcis so placed that the patient stands firmly upon it; the tibia bears firmly upon the circular head of the astragalus, and, so far as those bones are concerned in it, the foot is restored to its natural powers of action.

The most striking point in this cure, and the most important in its consequences to the patient, is the increased length of the tendo achillis, and gastrocnemeii muscles: it appears by very accurate measurements, that these muscles and ligaments increased three inches and a half in length during the progress of the cure, and, as it appears by measuring both the casts at the largest part of the legs, the increase of the circumference of the leg was three quarters of an inch; that is, the substance of the muscles was increased so much: this was positive growth, under circumstances which will render explanation desirable.

If, for the purpose of explanation, we suppose the bones of a foot are reduced to some regular form, the bones of the tarsus, when viewed by looking at the inside of the leg, may be represented by an equilateral triangle. When a man stands firm and flat upon his foot, one side of that triangle will be flat on the ground, and the point of the triangle will be vertical over it, and equally distant from those two points which bear flat upon the ground. When our imaginary triangle is in this situation, it is evident that its vertical point must be, and is, in the centre of the circular head of the astragalus; upon that the scaphoid cavity of the tibia bears. If, while the foot is firmly fixed upon the ground, the man bend his knee, the scaphoid cavity of the tibia moves over the circular head of the astragalus, as if it was working over a centre which includes the imaginary point of the triangle; but if the man raise his foot from the ground, as he proceeds to use it, and the various muscles act upon it in different ways, according to the different actions it is intended to perform, while the muscles and ligaments retain their natural powers, the foot is moved in different directions at the will of the patient. But when they are deranged, either from accident, mal-formation, or ill health, their actions become irregular, and lameness is produced.

If the gastrocnemeii muscles, and those whose action is opposed to them, cease to act alternately, neither of them will have but one action, instead of the alternate actions of contraction and extension, which, in the healthy state, are continually going on: if the extensor muscles of the foot, for example, cease to contract, the contractile action of the gastrocnemeii, their natural opponents, is continually going on; the consequence must be, that the equilibrium of action, which is essentially necessary to natural action, is first interrupted, and finally destroyed, the heel is drawn upwards, and the head of the astragalus thrown out of its natural situation, till the tibia rest upon that part of the tarsus which is between the head of the astragalus and the os calcis.

This took place to such an extent in the case that I have described, that when all the parts were restored to their natural relative positions as well as their natural powers, the gastrocnemeii muscles and tendo achillis measured three inches and a half longer than they were when the leg was in its most deformed state. The defect was produced by what is commonly called contraction of those muscles; that term, however, does not correctly describe the change that takes place; as the extensor muscles of the foot cease to act, from

no matter what cause, the flexors have but one action, they *retract continually*, and draw the bones of the foot out of their places more and more, till all the deformity that I have described has taken place.

This RETRACTION of muscles is totally different from what may, with propriety, be called *contraction* of muscles; I would limit that term to mean, alteration in the organic structure of muscles that will render *it impossible to restore them to their* natural healthy condition. I have never seen but one case of actual contraction, in the sense I would use the term, which I know it was quite impossible to alter, although I am aware that many are to be found.

The retraction of muscles, produced and kept up by irregular muscular action, is the real cause of all those distortions of the feet which are similar to the above, and the cure of which has been thought to be impossible, because erroneous opinions have been formed as to the real state of the facts, as well as the real nature of what is to be done to effect the cure of these distortions. The uniform success of my practice will, I presume, show that all these defects may be most completely cured, provided the proper means are used with due perseverance and attention.

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTE of HEALTH.

HYDROPHOBIA, CANCER, INSANITY, &c.

We learn from Dr. Mackie that his mode of prescribing the guaco, for the cure of hydrophobia, in South America, was, by directing the patient to take every morning, a table-spoonful of the expressed juice of the fresh plant, or two table-spoonsful of a strong infusion of the dried plant, and a topical application of the bruised plant, or in powder to the wound, after scarification. The Doctor calls our attention to the efficacy of the musk seed, (hibiscus abelmoschus, termed by the natives, cotella,) for curing cancer: his method of using it, was by syringing effectually the sore, morning and evening, with a strong infusion of the bruised seed, and then covering the whole surface with the seed reduced to a fine powder; at the same time every attention was paid to the general health of the patient.

To persons labouring under insanity and pulmonary consumption, he confidently recommends the plants used by the Indians, which he lately received from South America, and which he successfully prescribed in his own practice there. Among other cases of mania, Donna Clara, related to the family of the Marquess of Aycinena, in Guatemala, who suffered from this disorder for three years, was restored to perfect health in three months, and has since married. Don Juan Mendez, of Oaxaca, who was in a furibund state for nearly four years, recovered in fourteen weeks. The plant for pulmonary consumption was equally successful in every case in which the Doctor tried it, and a convalescence was evident after using it for one month.

In our last Number we alluded to the practical knowledge of the Indians or aborigines of South America, in the use of the different plants; and, as a proof, we give the following fact. A gentleman, in Guatemala, suffered so severely from calculus, that his life was

despaired of. The operation of lithotomy never having been performed there, was not attempted. An Indian of Pinula, a neighbouring village, hearing that the gentleman was dying, inquired the nature of his complaint, and when told it was calculus, he said he would soon cure him: he went home, and returned in a few hours with a plant, the juice of which he expressed in the presence of the medical attendants, and gave two table-spoonsful to the patient. In the course of an hour, a solution of the disease took place by the discharge of gravel, which continued occasionally for twenty-four hours, and completely relieved the gentleman, who from that period, 1819, is in the enjoyment of the best health, and personally known to the Doctor.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.

Mr. Editor,—Having found the practice usually adopted in consumption of the lungs, not only to prove inefficacious, but evidently to accelerate its fatal termination, I have long abandoned it, and for many years have adopted a treatment calculated to support the powers of the system and to correct the constitution. In most cases I have arrested the progress of the disease and prolonged the lives of the patients; and in two cases, attended with what may be termed its characteristic symptoms, as purulent expectoration, colliquative perspiration, hectic fever, emaciation, &c. &c. my plan has completely succeeded. Actuated by the desire of employing means to *cure* such patients, instead of *quieting* symptoms, which every medical man should have in view, I have latterly given the iodine, combined with the solution of the acetate of morphine (proportioned to the extent of the attendant irritation) an extensive trial, the favourable results of which have fully satisfied my mind that the disease is more under the control of medicine than practitioners generally imagine. In the early stage, when the lungs are in a state of inflammatory excitement, with a view to prepare the system for the administration of the iodine, I prescribe the nitrate of ammonia, and attend to the state of the alimentary canal, &c. And here I beg to observe, that when there are tubercles in the lungs, or the patients are of a scrofulous habit, the treatment with the iodine I have found very efficacious. When an effusion of serum has taken place in the chest, the iodine, combined with the squill, is an invaluable medicine. The physician must of course proportion the combination and dose to the existing symptoms. I should not discharge the duty I owe to the profession and to the public in general, were I not to call their attention to a mode of treatment that I have found so decidedly efficacious. Impressed with these sentiments, and for the sake of suffering humanity, and not from motives of interest, I am anxious to make it generally known; and I am the more particularly induced so to do, as the means usually pursued in practice more frequently aggravate than alleviate the sufferings of consumptive patients, and, as I have observed, hasten the fatal termination of the malady, by diminishing the vital energies of the system.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant, John Tuson.

Howland Street, 27th May, 1829.

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTE of HEALTH.

About three years since, a highly-talented lady, who has devoted much time to the study of every branch of medicine, and has prescribed for the complaints of her poor neighbours for the last fifteen years, and who we know supplied the late Dr. Good with much *practical information* for his "Study of Medicine," sent us the particulars

of a case of pulmonary consumption in a young female, whose habit was evidently scrofulous, in which the iodine, administered under her directions, succeeded in effecting a cure. The confirmation of the antiphthisical properties of the iodine in scrofulous habits, by a surgeon who ranks so high in the profession for scientific attainments and experience and observation as Mr. Tuson deservedly does, we consider very important. The routine practice of treating pulmonary consumption by bleeding, blistering, sedatives, and a low diet, which, as Mr. Tuson justly observes, hastens the fatal termination of the malady, still adopted by a set of physicians who endeavour to lead the public to believe that they possess a "*superior* knowledge of medicine," by virtue of the dead languages, is a disgrace to the country. These dead language quacks, thanks to the industry of general practitioners, will soon find their level among the contemptible class of puffers to which they belong.

UTERINE OBSTRUCTION.

Mr. Houlton, lecturer on medical botany and therapeutics, has published a case of uterine obstruction or sluggishness, in which ten grains (in two pills) of the extract of the fœtid chenopody, (made by spontaneous evaporation,) taken every night and morning, succeeded in producing a proper and sufficient secretion. The patient, a single woman about twenty-four years of age, had suffered from great depression of spirits, dull pains about the loins, lassitude, and hysterical affections. Mr. Houlton adds, he could relate many cases, but this he considers sufficient to show that the fœtid chenopody, vulgarly termed the "stinking orache," (the atriplex olida of the ancients,) deserves a place as an efficacious emmenagogue in our *materia medica*. The fœtid chenopody was held by the ancients as a powerful remedy for hysteric affections arising from uterine obstruction or irregularity, (retention or suppression,) and it seems it became *unpopular* with the regular physicians, at a time when medicine was at so low an ebb, that they were in fact not superior to the Jordans of the present day, merely because it became *popular* with the public. It, however, still maintains its reputation as a *popular* remedy for uterine obstruction or inactivity, throughout this country and on the continent. Mr. Houlton prefers the extract made by spontaneous or slow evaporation of the infusion by exposure on a large surface to the atmosphere, to that made in vacuo; because, by the latter process, the volatile parts of the plant, in which its virtues chiefly reside, are dissipated.

EPILEPSY.

Dr. Epps, lecturer on chemistry, has published an interesting case of epilepsy, in which he successfully prescribed the sulphate of quinine. The patient, a youth about seventeen years of age, the day after having been exposed to much rain, was seized with epileptic fits, which continued with slight cessations during the greater part of the day. Since the first attack, (a period of two months,) he had not passed a day without a fit, which came on *every morning* about nine o'clock. This circumstance indicating, in Dr. Epps's opinion, "an

analogy between this species of epilepsy and intermittent fever," induced the Doctor to prescribe the sulphate of quinine. In order to prepare the stomach for its exhibition, the Doctor ordered the following powder:

Take of Carbonate of Ammonia, one grain;
Ipecacuan Powder, a quarter of a grain;
Compound Jalap Powder, seven grains;
Rhubarb Powder, ten grains. Mix.

Six grains of sulphate of quinine with one grain of cinnamon powder were administered the following day, at seven o'clock in the morning, and he was directed to take a cup of coffee about eight. By this practice the patient was cured. Dr. Epps also notices a case of periodical epilepsy, in which the sulphate of quinine succeeded in the practice of Mr. Mantell, an experienced surgeon of Newick, in Sussex. The patient ("a fine girl") was about thirteen years of age. The fits being preceded by giddiness and severe pains in the forehead, and the sanguiferous system being plethoric, Mr. Mantell "bled her from the arm, and prescribed a brisk purgative and a blister to the nape of the neck." The sulphate of quinine, in the dose of two grains three times a-day, effected a cure.

Dr. Wedemeyer, a physician of Hanover, relates the case of an epileptic patient, who, after the use of nitrate of silver for eighteen months, was completely cured; but the skin, as generally happens in cases of this kind, became of a dark lead colour. Some time afterwards the patient died from disease of the liver and dropsy. On examination of the body, the plexus choroides was of a dark blue colour; and some of the viscera having been submitted to a chemical analysis, were found to contain a considerable quantity of silver.

About three months ago we opened a gentleman who died of extensive disease of the lungs and of the spleen. On examining the liver we were surprised to find the peritoneal covering of the under portion of the right lobe of a peculiarly dark lead colour. The substance of the liver was perfectly healthy. We have since ascertained the fact, that he had for some time been taking the nitrate of silver, under the direction of a physician, for morbid sensibility of the stomach. The skin was not in the slightest degree tinged by it.

INTERMITTENT FEVER.

The following remarks on certain anomalous affections connected with intermittent fever, by Mr. Mantell, in a letter to Dr. Epps, published in the "London Medical and Surgical Journal," are, in a practical point of view, highly valuable.

"I may remark that intermittent fevers have prevailed in this district during the months of October, November, and December, in a degree altogether unprecedented, and assuming forms so anomalous as to render the formation of a correct diagnosis, at times, very difficult. For instance, I have known intermittent to exhibit itself under the form of rheumatic pains coming on at a *certain hour of the night*; the patient complaining of severe pain in the chest, with palpitation of the heart, difficulty of breathing, and pain on attempting to make a *rather full inspiration*. In such cases, no tenderness has existed on

the pectoral muscles, and the pulse has remained undisturbed and quiet during the paroxysm, the subsidence of the same, being usually followed by a hot dry skin. In the morning the patient has appeared as well as if nothing had occurred to cause indisposition. These cases at first occasioned some perplexity, but the conclusion was soon arrived at, that they were clearly intermittent, only assuming certain anomalous forms. In every case of such affections, under my own care, the sulphate of quinine has effected a speedy and permanent cure. Cases have occurred in which the sulphate of quinine has been administered without benefit; but in these very cases, by preceding the use of this valuable remedy by an emetic and a brisk purgative, complete relief has been invariably afforded."

YELLOW FEVER.

An eminent physician, lately returned from South America, informs us, that he did not lose a patient afflicted with yellow fever, after he adopted a speedy mode of producing salivation, by exposing the whole surface of the body to a warm air impregnated with mercurial vapour. Although copious perspiration was thus produced, a sufficient quantity of mercury was absorbed in a few hours to excite slight salivation. The patients also inhaled the vapour. This treatment, with an aperient medicine, the occasional use of the lancet in plethoric subjects, and a cooling beverage, as lemonade, we find has been found equally successful in the practice of others, both in South and North America, and would probably succeed in cases of typhus, and in dysentery, better than that of administering a scruple of calomel every two or three hours.

DROPSY OF THE ABDOMEN—*(ascites.)*

The Editors of an Italian journal have published the following case of dropsy of the abdomen, which was cured by compression.

At the end of last year, a middle-aged female was received into the hospital of Parma, under the care of M. Speranza, with a large dropsical swelling of the abdomen, which, according to her statement, had followed an attack of fever after difficult labour. She was in a state of great debility, attended with continued fever; the abdomen was considerably enlarged, urine scanty, and highly coloured, the bowels constipated, and the digestive organs much deranged. The use of squills as an aperient, and mercury having produced no beneficial effect, M. Speranza, determined upon trying the effects of strong compression of the abdomen, of the beneficial effects of which the observation of Godille and Recamier, and more lately those of Moreton, have given very ample proofs. The secretion of urine in a short time became copious in such a degree as greatly to reduce the size of the abdomen, and at the end of three weeks no trace of fluctuation could be discovered. Under the continued employment of the bandage, the use of tonics, and a nutrient diet, the patient rapidly recovered her strength, and was, eight weeks after her admission, discharged perfectly well.—*Lancet.*

TIC DOULOUREUX, &c.

If the numerous reports we have received of the sedative effects of the topical application of the *essential* oil of the berries of the sweet bay (laurus nobilis) be correct, a remedy is at length discovered capable of immediately allaying the acute pain, termed tic douloureux; and, if applied regularly every day over the seat of the malady, of preventing a recurrence. Those who have given this remedy a trial, say that they have *uniformly* found it to succeed in allaying the most acute pain. Dr. W. a physician, who has suffered for many months most severely from acute pains in the external membrane of the frontal and parietal bones of the skull, which frequently extended to the nerves of the face, a paroxysm of which was often so violent as to produce delirium, assures us, that this essential oil gently rubbed over the parts affected almost instantaneously allayed the pain, and always succeeded in producing a good night's rest. He had derived some benefit from the application of the belladonna ointment, and from the acetate of morphine; but of all the remedies he had employed, not one so speedily and effectually subdued the pain as the essential oil. It is also highly extolled as a topical remedy for spasms and chordee. A correspondent informs us, that Mr. Hart, the eminent Chancery barrister (the present Chancellor of Ireland) has been long in the habit of using this oil topically for a pain in the head, to which he was subject after much mental exertion at the bar, and uniformly with immediate beneficial effects. This gentleman procures it from his estate in the West Indies, where the shrub is cultivated by his directions for the purpose of obtaining the oil. The essential oil of the bitter almond has been sold for it in London. It is not bitter, but of a fine fragrant aromatic flavour, perfectly free from a bitter principle. A medical gentleman informs us that he is convinced the spectacles made with the compound metal, termed "jewellers' silver," often keeps up irritation in the nerves of the face by some galvanic influence. He states that, during the use of such spectacles, he was very subject to acute pains in the nerves of the face, and in the teeth, approaching to tic douloureux, which ceased after he adopted spectacles made with tortoise-shell. A respectable dentist, whose name we have forgotten, lately published some instances of the baneful effects of certain compound metals used in connecting and fastening false teeth. In some foreign Journals, a few cases of tic douloureux, cured by galvanism, have lately been published; but they evidently arose from a disordered state of the digestive organs.

In our last Number, under the head of tic douloureux, we stated, on the authority of a young physician, that Sir James Anderson, of Dublin, had discovered a successful mode of treating tic douloureux, and that he was then in attendance on the Marquess of Anglesea, in London, who was suffering from this distressing affliction. The physician, now in London, also stated that he was attending the Marquess with Sir James Anderson. It appears from the following letter, that his statement was not correct. We assure Sir James E. Anderson that the insertion of the communication, since we have discovered it to be erroneous, has given us much uneasiness; and *if he should* not be satisfied with the publication of his letter, we will

with pleasure communicate to him the name of our informant. It was certainly not his intention to cast any reflection on the professional character of Sir James E. Anderson, for he spoke in high terms of commendation of his medical abilities.

SIR,—Although I have not the honour of your acquaintance, yet as editor of a popular periodical, I trust you will excuse my trespassing on your time for a few minutes, more especially when I inform you that my name is mentioned in your number for April last, in a way by no means gratifying to my feelings, and I am willing to think you would not publish such untrue and malicious aspersions, without doing me the justice also of contradicting them.

The case I allude to is narrated in page 552, under the head of Tic Douloureux, wherein you state, that your correspondent informs you, I have discovered a successful mode of treating this most painful malady. You then refer to my treatment of Lord Anglesea, and state that his lordship has suffered severely from this malady since his return to London, and that having experienced no relief from the medical friends he consulted, sent for me, but that my great skill and judgment had hitherto been exercised in vain. You farther go on to state, that I attribute the disease situated in the nerves of the face, to an extension of the irritation existing in his lordship's stump, which is at times inflamed, and in a high degree of irritation from exfoliation of bone.

In reply to this, I beg to inform you, that being attached to Lord Anglesea's household, when Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, it became my duty to attend him professionally, and while under my care his lordship was pleased to think he received benefit; at the same time I profess possessing no specific remedy or infallible mode of curing this disease which I keep a secret. All my prescriptions for his lordship were sent to the apothecaries in the usual way. It is true I watched the progress of the disease and every change of symptom most attentively, and endeavoured to meet them as promptly as possible.

Since I have had the honour of prescribing for Lord Anglesea, he has never had inflammation, irritation, exfoliation, or indeed any complaint in his stump, nor has he suffered *severely* from his face since his return to London, having had only slight indications which readily yielded to simple remedies; and I have every reason to believe, were he watched with care, such remedies would be efficient in any hands as well as mine.

It is more than probable, your correspondent could have informed you, as I do now, that since Lord Anglesea's return to London, *no one* has attended or prescribed for him but Sir Joseph Laffan.

I do not feel myself justified in laying Lord Anglesea's case before the public; but, be assured, were it not a feeling of delicacy towards the noble Marquis, I should have pleasure in doing so.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your very humble servant,

J. E. ANDERSON.

Dublin, May 9th, 1829.

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTE of HEALTH.

SAINT VITUS'S DANCE.

The Editors of the "Glasgow Medical Journal" have published a confirmed case of this disease, in which the tartar emetic eruptions excited on the scalp, and a stimulant applied along the course of the spine, evidently cured the patient, after every other mode of treatment, even the purging system of the late Dr. Hamilton, had failed to afford any relief, and indeed some remedies, which have been extolled as specifics, had clearly aggravated the malady. Speaking of the purging system of Dr. Hamilton, Dr. Harrower observes, "I am decidedly against the *continued* use of very powerful purgatives, because the practice, if it does not destroy the patient, induces disease that may render him miserable through life." That thousands have been hurried to their graves by this practice, under the direction of routine practitioners, who feel no other interest than the fee, is a fact which no honest practitioner, of experience and observation, will deny. Dr. Harrower does not entirely condemn the *occasional* use of an aperient medicine in cases of Saint Vitus's Dance, particularly when the bowels are torpid, Various remedies, with attention to the alimentary canal, having completely failed even to arrest the progress of the disease, Dr. Harrower ordered the head to be shaved, and the tartar emetic ointment to be rubbed on the scalp two or three times a-day, till a copious eruption appeared. From the furious and restless state of the patient, the difficulty of using friction was very great, in consequence of which, some time elapsed before a crop of pustules was produced, but on their appearance, the most decided improvement became evident. She now slept for several hours with only occasional starting, the involuntary motions were greatly abated, the countenance lively, the pulse full and soft, the skin, which had been harsh and dry, was relaxed and moist, and the external senses were more alive to impressions. The ointment employed was the same which the late Dr. Monteath and Mr. Mackenzie commonly prescribed, *i. e.* a drachm of finely powdered emetic tartar to an ounce of lard. The solution of the muriate of antimony, in the same proportion, is not only more chemical, but acts more speedily and effectually in producing the same kind of eruption. The discharge was kept up by the occasional reapplication of the ointment, and a strong liniment of turpentine and camphor was also rubbed over the course of the spine, to hasten, as the Doctor observes, the cure, and to prevent the danger of relapse. In ten days after the appearance of the eruption, the patient could walk through the house with a firm step and handle small objects. The vision soon became perfect. The Doctor now prescribed a simple tonic medicine, and on paying her a visit, after the expiration of three weeks, he found her perfectly well. Doctor Harrower concludes his valuable practical communication with the observation, that he is happy to find his views are supported by the testimony of Dr. Hunter, of Glasgow. Dr. Hunter has detailed a very interesting case of this disease, in which the application of the tartar emetic ointment to the scalp and *along the spinal column* effected a cure, after various plans of treatment, and almost every article of the *materia medica*, had been tried in vain. The results of this mode of treatment, in our opinion,

confirm the theory of the observant and experienced Dr. Harrison, who refers this malady to a disordered or irritated condition of the spinal marrow, frequently the consequence of some irregularity of the spinal column, or inflammatory excitement of the membranes of the spinal cord; for it is probable if a stimulant had not been applied over the course of the spinal column, the eruption of the scalp would not have effected a cure.

EFFECTUAL MEANS OF PRESERVING THE TEETH.

Many hypotheses have been published respecting the nature and source of the earthy material which accumulates on the teeth, termed tartar.

Professor Berzelius, in a work on animal chemistry, says, when it first settles on the teeth it is mere hardened mucus, and that during its decomposition, phosphate of lime is produced, which adheres firmly to the enamel. M. Serres says that it is secreted by minute distinct glands, and not a deposit from the saliva. Professor Hertz, in his popular treatise, considers it a consolidated morbid secretion of relaxed or irritated gums; and many dentists attribute it to decomposition of animal and vegetable food lodged between the teeth. Mr. La Beaume has lately ascertained, by microscopical examination, that this collection is produced in the same manner as coral, by animalculæ resembling the *medreposa oculata*. By means of a solar microscope of strong magnifying power, we have seen them in a very lively state; and, from the cellular organization of the tartar, we have no doubt of the correctness of Mr. La Beaume's theory. The same has been observed by Mr. Cooper, a scientific chemist and geologist of London. Mr. La Beaume is decidedly of opinion that, after the tartar, which, like coral, is a mere nidus, adheres firmly to the teeth, the animalculæ burrow into the teeth, and, by insinuating themselves between the teeth and gum, occasion disease in both; but the secretion from them is often so offensive as to contaminate the breath. Mr. La Beaume has made numerous experiments with different mineral, vegetable, and animal acid, and with alcohol, to ascertain their effects on the animalculæ and on their habitation, and it is a curious fact, that of all the articles he has employed, the true *vinegar* acid, (not the pyroligneous acid, which is now generally sold for it,) almost instantaneously killed the animalculæ, and acted powerfully in decomposing the concretions, so that they were easily removed by a brush. The more powerful acids, in the same state of dilution, and alcohol, seemed to have little effect on the animalculæ. In order to destroy the animalculæ and their eggs, and to decompose the production which protects them, Mr. La Beaume recommends the teeth to be brushed every morning with the *vinegar* acid, (acidum aceticum *verum*,) diluted with rose water, and immediately afterwards to make use of the levigated areca nut charcoal, and the tincture of rhatany, as recommended by Professor Hertz, in his popular "Treatise on the Management of the Teeth," which we have described in a former Number.

The use of the dilute acetic acid every morning will, in the course of a few days, entirely remove the tartar, and the regular employment of the areca charcoal and tincture of rhatany every, or every other,

morning, will effectually prevent the generation of the animalcul but if there be a strong disposition to their production, he advises t dilute acetic acid to be used once a-week. Dentists in gener oppose the use of an acid, on the supposition that it is capable decomposing the enamel. "This opposition," observes Dr. Goo "arises from an ignorance of the gradations of chemical affinities;" of them, however, very freely use the most potent mineral acids to facil tate the removal of the tartar in the operation termed scaling. The tr vinegar acid is incapable of acting chemically on the enamel of the teet we say the *true vinegar* acid, because the pyroligneous acid, which now generally sold for it, has been found to act injuriously on unhealth or decayed teeth; whereas the *vinegar* acid assuredly supends t progress of caries, and, used as directed by Mr. La Beaume, will no doul render the operation of scaling by instruments unnecessary, an operatio which is always more or less destructive to the enamel, and often re ders teeth loose which are not healthy or well supported by sound gum

We have no hesitation in saying that the discovery of Mr. L Beaume is far more important than any that has been made in dent pathology. It most satisfactorily accounts for the cause of unhealth and carious teeth and offensive breath, and enables every person preserve the teeth in a healthy state. It is not like many medical the ries of the day, founded on hypothesis, and broached for the purpose giving publicity to the inventors. It is founded on facts, and in givin it publicity, Mr. La Beaume is actuated by no other motive than benefit his fellow-creatures. The discovery of the animalculæ h made many years ago, and the important advantages of the manag ment of the teeth founded on it, has been confirmed by long exper ence. We can vouch for the truth of his assertions. We have frequently advised our readers to employ the areca charcoal (con monly called in the East Indies, Betel Nut Tooth-powder) that w have nothing more to say than to advise those who may adopt th treatment recommended by Mr. La Beaume, to be very particular i obtaining the *true* vinegar acid. For the accommodation of reader we have ordered the lotion of rose water and the vinegar acid to b kept at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DR. HARRISON v. THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

The memorable contest between the *Royal* College of Physicia and Dr. Harrison having arrived at its last stage, we are obliged, the close of the month, to satisfy ourselves with a brief statement the rehearing, leaving a fuller account to some future period. S long ago as the last summer, the powers of the College were argue before Lord Tenterden, and the object of the College to recov a mulct of five pounds at the expense to the defendant of thre hundred pounds, was defeated by the verdict of an intelligent jur Dr. Harrison applied for the costs of the suit, and the Mast awarded them to him. The College lawyer (brother of *fello* Roberts) however demurred, and served a notice of trial upon th defendant.

So matters remained from that time to the present, owing to the shuffling and dirty manœuvres of the monopolists, alias the "fellows of all the collateral lights of natural philosophy"!!!

It was argued on Saturday, May 23d, before the Judges of the King's Bench, by Mr. Campbell and Mr. Armstrong for the Defendant; Sir James Scarlett and Mr. Brougham for the College. Although the decision is reserved to a future day, the bearings of the case and inclination of the court satisfied our minds that Dr. Harrison will be the successful suitor.

We trust the Doctor will now come forward, and fearlessly give his own statement. That he has been shamefully calumniated, and scandalously misrepresented, not only by open enemies, but, what is much worse, by *treacherous and ungrateful friends*, we can positively assert, *on our own knowledge*. We know more, for we have seen documents sufficient to convince us, *that he was misled by the lawyers, whom he consulted on his arrival in London*, and so long since as during his discussions with Dr. Baillie. Acting upon the information then received, he wrote his letters to Dr. Chambers and the Censors. It was not till the College had "*declared*," that the first consultation between his junior counsel and solicitors was held. This consultation he attended. Let the reader bear these facts in mind. He will then clearly see that Dr. Harrison was warranted in assuming the bold and uncompromising style in his correspondence alluded to.

When he became fully acquainted with the predicament in which he actually stood, it then became necessary for him either to shape his course on a new tack, or to perish in the gathering storm. He prudently chose the former.

Could he have brought out the merits of the contest, we have our reasons for saying that he would have voluntarily surrendered the verdict, and hazarded another trial. He even put the question to both his counsel, *at the last conference*, and was told that no new ground could be opened, on a re-hearing either in the law courts, or on a formal appeal to the House of Lords. It being, they said, only a "*qui tam*" action, or suit for penalties, the soundness or unsoundness of the College by-laws could not be called in question, much less openly attacked.

In these *untoward* circumstances, and not suspecting what witnesses would be subpœnaed, the Doctor wisely left his cause with counsel, and they acting on their own responsibility made the defence which secured a verdict. We shall show next month, on the authority of a recent law opinion, which sets this long disputed question completely at rest, that in no other way could Dr. Harrison have gained his victory; we say *victory*, because the verdict establishes the right of surgeons or general practitioners to write prescriptions with their initials and the day and year on which they are written. In consequence of this decision, surgeons and general practitioners, who do not supply their patients with medicine, give prescriptions properly dated, with their initials; and the chemical or therapeutic character of these prescriptions proves that the writers are more entitled to the denomination of physicians than one-half of the Fellows

who claim a superior knowledge of diseases in consequence of being acquainted with all the collateral lights of all the branches of natural philosophy, a knowledge which is only to be acquired by a life of disgraceful dissipation at an English University, where even the rudiments of the science of medicine are not taught!! Dr. Harrison, by resisting the monopolizing spirit of the College, has done more in unmasking legitimate quackery, and in exposing the humbug of pretenders to a superior knowledge of medicine, than all the volumes that have appeared on the subject; and for his manly conduct he is entitled to the thanks of general practitioners, and of the public.

Since writing the above, we have received the pleasing intelligence that the "strained arguments" of the College lawyers have entirely failed to convince the Court that the legal proceedings against Dr. H. were adopted for the benefit of the public, and that the College, in consequence, were not liable to the costs incurred by the defendant! Had the College succeeded, the Doctor's expenses would have amounted to upwards of three hundred pounds, merely in opposing the payment of a mulct of five pounds!!!

The College has, in this disgraceful affair, sustained a defeat which must render them contemptible in the eyes of men of science.

THERAPEUTICS.

MAGNESIAN WATER.—A weak solution of magnesia in pure water, supersaturated with the carbonic acid gas, is now very generally preferred in London to the article sold under the name of "soda water." It is not only more pleasant to the palate, but has the great advantage over soda water of obviating costiveness, and of not producing irritation in the kidneys, bladder, or urethra, to which those who are in the habit of taking soda water as a cooling beverage during summer, are very subject. For persons disposed to constipation, or to irritative affections of the bladder, prostate gland, urethra, or rectum, the magnesian water is doubtless a very excellent drink. It has also the advantage of not being subject to the stamp duty, and consequently cheaper than soda water. Why "soda water," which does not come within the meaning of any clause of the Medicine Act—not a secret preparation sold without directions, but used only as a beverage, and made according to the directions of one of the national Pharmacopœias, should have been inserted in the schedule of the Act, as subject to the stamp duty, is a matter of surprise to us. Although the makers of it are subject to a heavy penalty, for sending it out unstamped, publicans and retailers of oysters are not required to take out a licence to sell it!! Notwithstanding it appears in the schedule, we suspect the commissioners would not succeed in recovering a penalty for selling it without a stamp, if the vender could prove that it was made according to the directions published by the London, Edinburgh, or the Dublin College of Physicians.

PRUSSIC ACID.—We have received several cases of hooping cough and of asthma in young subjects, and consumptive coughs, in which this acid speedily proved successful; one practitioner states, that he has found the dose of one drop, with thirty drops of ipecacuan wine in a little cold linseed tea, taken three or four times a-day, to terminate hooping cough in a few days. This acid has also been administered with the most decided advantage in cases of specific inflammation of the urethra, and of the vagina in very nervous subjects.

EAST INDIA OPIUM.—From numerous chemical examinations of the opium which has lately been imported, in considerable quantities, from the East Indies, it appears evident that it does not contain so great a proportion of morphine, and a greater proportion of narcotin than that received from Turkey, and, consequently, as an anodyne, very inferior to it. The English opium, on the contrary, contains a greater proportion of morphine, and less narcotin than the Turkey opium. Practitioners who have given it an extensive trial, and the preparers of morphine, prefer it to any foreign opium.

THE ROUND-LEAF CORNEL, AND THE CHIRAYITA HERB.—Finding that many of our readers are at a loss, from our accounts of these articles, to determine which is the most entitled to a trial in cases of indigestion, or general debility, we *think it* necessary briefly to state, that the round-leaf cornel is recommended as a tonic

in cases of *direct* debility, either local or general. When the stomach does not properly perform its office in consequence of relaxation or debility, and when, of course, it requires bracing, the round-leaf cornel is a most valuable tonic medicine. This variety of indigestion occurs in elderly people, and in those who were born weakly, or have weakened their vital powers by excesses, or a residence in a tropical climate. It is commonly attended with general relaxation of the muscular system, diminished temperature of the body, particularly of the extremities, a sensation of weakness about the joints, paleness of skin, swelling of the legs, after much exercise or sitting or standing, sluggishness of the bowels, drowsiness, gleety secretions, diminution of the power to empty the bladder or rectum, &c. In such cases, the round-leaf cornel is a most invaluable tonic medicine, and the results of the numerous trials we and our medical friends have given it, have proved that it fully merits the character Dr. Robinson and Professor Ives have given it, and that it is, as a tonic, very superior to the Peruvian bark, or the sulphate of quinine. The chirayita herb is recommended as a stomachic and deobstruent, in cases of digestion, arising from morbid excitement or nervousness of the stomach.

This condition of the stomach is termed, by Abernethy, feverish, and by Dr. James Johnson morbid sensibility of the stomach. This state of the stomach is a common consequence of a too free indulgence in vinous or spirituous liquors and savoury dishes. It is generally attended with nervousness of the whole body, increased temperature, particularly in the head, hands and feet, after a meal, confusion of the mind, with unrefreshing sleep, with dreaming or night-mare, pains in the knees or shoulders, heartburn, flatulence in the stomach and intestines, highly-coloured urine, with a red deposit, irregular bowels, &c. In this variety of indigestion, to which inebriates and gouty people are particularly subject, a tonic medicine, as the round-leaf cornel or the Peruvian bark, would prove injurious. The chirayita here acts as a stomachic, by allaying the morbid excitement of the digestive organs, by promoting the secretions of the liver, and by keeping up a regular action in the intestinal canal, so as to prevent accumulation of fæces. In cases of indigestion, arising from debility, and occurring in a leucophlegmatic habit, the chirayita would act injuriously, by increasing the debility of the stomach, and consequently of the whole body; but in cases of *indirect* debility arising from increased excitement of the stomach, attended with general nervousness, the chirayita, by reducing the degree of excitement, and quieting the whole nervous system, and promoting the secretion of the liver, &c. will strengthen the body. Some practitioners condemn the use of a tonic, such as the round-leaf cornel, or the Peruvian bark, or any other stomachic which contains an astringent principle, because, by constringing the biliary ducts, they occasion a congestion of the vessels of the liver.

In a case of indigestion from morbid excitement or nervousness, an astringent medicine would have this effect; but in cases of debility of the stomach, attended with general relaxtion, a tonic medicine, containing the astringent principle, proves very beneficial, by enabling the vessels to get rid of their contents, and the absorbents to remove any deposit. The vessels and cellular substances of a viscus become overloaded as much from languid circulation as from increased action or excitement, and when the cause is debility, a tonic medicine, such as the round-leaf cornel, will promote the secretion of bile, whilst the chirayita would diminish it; but when the liver is in a state of morbid excitement, the chirayita, by reducing it, will promote its secretion. That the chirayita acts as efficaciously in removing visceral obstruction, and in promoting the secretion of bile as the blue pill, we can positively state from numerous trials; and we have no doubt in such cases it will soon supersede the blue pill and other preparations of mercury, the continued use of which has produced very serious disturbance of the brain and lungs in nervous subjects.

QUACKERY, &c.

MISS MAY, *versus* THE DOCTORS J. & C. JORDAN.—In our last number, we noticed the high ground the learned *Doctors* J. & C. Jordan, had taken. Counsellor Bluster, for the very moderate sum of three guineas, delivered an oration before the Magistrates, at the Police Office in Great Marlborough Street, on the wonderful healing powers of the celebrated *Balsam of Rakapiri!!* The sale of it, he emphatically observed, produced to the revenue no less a sum than five thousand pounds *annually*, and certainly no evidence could be produced of its having acted to the disadvantage of undertakers, grave-diggers, or grave-robbers, denominated resurrectionists!! Miss May was accused of being actuated by a most unworthy motive, and her moral character was assailed by disgraceful insinuations; and as for her attorney and the Editors of the *Gazette of Health*, they were to be transported beyond the seas for a most infamous conspiracy!! Some of the daily papers were paragraphed at the expense of five guineas each, with Counsellor Bluster's oration. The position of the Doctors now became most imposing. Miss May was not,

however, to be frightened. The vile attacks on her moral character, indeed, only excited her indignation. Declarations replete with numerous facts and terrific points were filed; briefs, containing the parentage, education, and former avocations of the *learned* Doctors, an analysis of the wonderful Balsam, by Mr. Farady, and the opinions of several eminent practitioners, of its being a very dangerous medicine, if not a poison, for three parts of the diseases for the *cure* of which it is industriously advertised !!

The doctors being now convinced that Miss May and her solicitor were really determined to go into court, became so nervous, that, notwithstanding the anti-nervous powers of their balsam, their hearts failed them. A negotiation took place between the attorneys on each side. The *doctors* were willing to make any sacrifice rather than their traffic should be exposed in court; but Miss May and her attorney refused to submit to any condition which did not embrace a *public* acknowledgment of the falsehood of their base attack on her moral character. After many interviews between the attorneys, the *learned* DOCTORS, finding that a public exposure could not be avoided, agreed to return the money Miss May had paid for the pretended *Balsam of Rakasiri*, to give her £100 for the scandalous libel on her character, to pay all her law expenses, and to agree to the insertion of the following acknowledgment in the leading public papers!!!

"We the undersigned, C. and J. Jordan, do hereby declare, that the assertions contained in a statement, entitled "*Base and malicious Charge of Fraud Refuted*," inserted at our instance in the *Morning Chronicle*, and other newspapers, on or about the 28th day of February last, have *no foundation whatever*, as far as regards Miss May and her Solicitor, or either of them; and we hereby express our deep regret for having caused the said statement to be inserted.—Witness our hands this 21st day of May, 1829.

"Witness, J. Dias. (Signed) C. and J. JORDAN."

The analysis of this pretended Balsam of Rakasiri by Mr. Farady, agrees with that published by ourselves about ten years ago. Not a particle of the Balsam was detected. Spirit of wine, with a stimulating essential oil, and a little saccharine matter, a remedy for pulmonary consumption, and a variety of diseases, in which such a stimulating medicine must necessarily act as a poison! To Miss May, for her heroic conduct, and Mr. Cox, her solicitor, for the firmness with which he conducted the proceedings, the thanks of the public are due. They have completely knocked up the Balsam of Rakasira trade, than which a more infamous traffic has not been carried on in the most barbarous country. The learned Doctors will no doubt drop the title of M.D., which they obtained in their native street, Petticoat-lane, where their father still resides, and take to their former trade, more respectable, of selling pencils and old clothes.

DR. GODBOLD, *Proprietor of the Vegetable Balsam, an infallible remedy for Consumption of the Lungs.* This distinguished quack, son of the discoverer of the once celebrated vegetable balsam, after keeping the necessary term in the King's Bench University, has *satisfied* his creditors under the Insolvent Act!!! It appeared on his examination, that at one time the Vegetable Balsam produced a profit of four thousand pounds a-year, and that the demand for it rapidly decreased after we had published the specification of the ingredients, as enrolled at the Patent Office, and our analysis of the pretended balsam. Although the specification was delivered by his father *on oath*, he swore positively that the secret was known only to himself!!! So much for specifications of the modes of making patent medicines given in on oath!!! The profit of this pretended balsam, (honey, sugar, and vinegar,) fell, in the course of fifteen years, from four thousand pounds a-year to one hundred.

Mr. VAN BUTCHELL.—This curer of fistula and other diseases of the rectum, *without operation*, of advertising notoriety, has been committed to Newgate on a charge of manslaughter. It appeared in evidence before the Coroner, that he had introduced an instrument into the rectum of a man, for the purpose of dilating a stricture, and that he had used such force as to rupture the intestine, which was speedily followed by so much mischief as to terminate life in a few days.

So much for curing strictures of the rectum without operation. Within the last three months we have heard much of the speedy cure of stricture by forcible dilatation; and it is not improbable that the high terms in which it has been recommended, induced Mr. Van Butchell to give it a trial in this case. Mr. Van Butchell is not a Member of the College of Surgeons, or a Licentiate of the Company of Apothecaries, of the College of Physicians, or of Somerset House; but we understand he has received a regular surgical education. Every surgeon, who has paid much attention to diseases of the rectum, must, we think, be aware that diseases do occur with ulceration, or such a delicate or tender state of the coats of the rectum, that the slightest force in introducing a bougie may occasion serious mischief; and from the rapidity with which the inflammation extended over the peritoneum, and the short time in which it terminated life, it appears to us the bowels were in a very unhealthy state. God help us!! if all the physicians and surgeons were to be tried for manslaughter who have hurried patients to their grave by their treatment! Government would find it necessary to turn the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons into prisons.

Mr. LONG SAINT JOHN LONG.—The fee trade of this impudent and avaricious quack, has so declined, in consequence of his numerous failures, that it is no longer worthy our notice. The editors of all the respectable papers are so disgusted with his impudence and extortions, that they will not even insert his advertisements.

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REMARKS ON THE LATE TRIAL BETWEEN THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND DR. HARRISON, BY THE DEFENDANT.

The EDITOR of the GAZETTE of HEALTH.

SIR,—The protracted contest raised by the Fellows of the College of Physicians having at length terminated in their complete defeat, after two hearings in open court, and at an expense to themselves, for my taxed costs *alone*, of 78*l.* 12*s.*, I am desirous, through the medium of your valuable Journal, to communicate some particulars connected with that celebrated struggle.

1*st*, I may premise, that the late trial records the first failure since the enactment of the present By-laws. It has established the important facts, that they are not only illegal in themselves, but, what is scarcely to be credited, that their validity can only be successfully opposed by the Fellows—by the very men who framed them to secure an exclusive benefit, and now defend them for selfish and unworthy purposes. From persons of this description no correction of abuses will voluntarily proceed. They have taken a false position, and, favoured by legal quibbles and fictions, can maintain it, in defiance of every opposition, before the ordinary tribunals.

Whatever is done for the improvement or credit of the repudiated physicians must be achieved by themselves. This is really the fact, and I shall not attempt either to disguise it or to mislead the public.

The College was originally seized, and is still illegally held, by a dominant faction, to the exclusion of all others. Such has been the relative state of parties from about the year 1752 to the present moment, and they will, I am persuaded, remain as they now are, until, the injured persons can be induced to unite their energies, and collectively prosecute their claims before parliament. Then they will be triumphant. As the sacred cause affects, more or less, every physician in the British dominions, nothing more seems to be required than a good beginning and respectable association.

2*dly*, Whoever will give himself the trouble to look carefully into the charter of Henry VIII. will find that it provides, first, for the extinction of quacks; secondly, the supervision of drug shops; thirdly, the licensing of surgeons, apothecaries, and man-midwives, or of all persons who, from not having been examined, and admitted to practise medicine in some university, require to have their fitness approved in another way. These being trusts of great moment and interest to society, Henry confided their execution generally to the Doctors of Medicine resident within the City of London. In order to carry his intentions into effect, he established the College of Physicans, "after the example of well-regulated cities in Italy, and many other countries." But the Colleges of Physicians abroad, it is notorious, were all composed of Doctors in Medicine and no others. Consequently the College of London, instituted after their example,

must have been similarly constituted. The original members of the London College, I therefore conclude, both from the language of the charter and the reason of the thing, consisted solely of Doctors in Physic of *various universities*. These were the "homines facultatis" of the charter, an expression which has been so much misunderstood and misrepresented. These were the members, and the only members of the London College. Henry intrusted the execution of the charter in the first instance, to six graduates of Italian universities. Not one of them had either studied, or been entered of either Oxford or Cambridge, from which, it is evident, that these universities were never intended by the royal founder to enjoy any superior privileges.

Such was the original constitution of the College; and so it remained, till a faction narrowed the incorporation in favour of Oxford and Cambridge graduates. This disgraceful occurrence, which diverted the College from its original purpose, took place about the middle of last century. From that period to the present time, the College has been involved in unceasing litigation, or turmoil, and its agitations will continue undiminished so long as the rejected members are deprived of their constitutional rights. How long relief may be deferred I know not; come it certainly will, sooner or later; and this act of tardy justice would be accelerated, if the injured could be induced to forego their petty jealousies and exert their combined energies to obtain redress. Such a course would be manly and honourable; but so long as the influential licentiates will condescend to cringe and flatter the most insignificant fellows to gain a seat in the conclave, they are unworthy of the freedom to which they aspire.

3dly, It has been objected to the defence, that it was sufficiently at variance with the style and manner of the letters to disappoint the just expectations of the profession. That the pleadings were not in strict accordance with the correspondence I admit; but in making this concession, I may be allowed to add that circumstances, over which I could exercise no control, and for which I am therefore not answerable, obliged me to deviate into a tortuous track after I had, as I believed, only to follow a staight path. During this fatiguing journey I was left to pursue my rout alone, neither meeting with a solitary companion to lessen my toil, nor any one to offer me the smallest accommodation. Of this inattention I never complained; but I may now be permitted to observe, in my own justification, that if, in traversing an hitherto unexplored region, I had the misfortune to lose my way, I am the only sufferer, and deny the right of any human being to call me to account, even if he should show that there has been some unintentional mismanagement of the adventure.

Several gentlemen came forward, during the contest, to enlighten the public with their profound lucubrations on College affairs. As they were not, however, intended for my instruction or assistance, but to display their own learning and private wishes, I acknowledge no obligations to the writers. Some of these advocates, thinking only of themselves, said, in very coarse terms, that I ought voluntarily to have given up the verdict, for the purpose of afterwards arguing the (unimportant) points reserved by Lord Tenterden.

The accusations of those, who censure me, are founded on my not *persisting* in a course ascertained to be impracticable. I have already

remarked that unexpected obstacles drove us to substitute a mode of defence, which neither I nor my professional adviser originally contemplated. Under such circumstances, we, of course, took advantage of opportunities in our favour, as they arose. No fair or reasonable man would expect us to neglect any prudent and just measure to obtain a verdict. *Sane* persons, I might add, do not go into courts of law for the purpose of being defeated. As the main questions, which I originally considered at issue, would not be suffered to be argued, either in this or a new trial, it became necessary to substitute other modes of proceeding; and in these we were successful. Should it be asserted that no good will spring out of the trial, I do not hesitate, in the most unqualified manner, to deny the inference. The College claims being all founded on the charter of Henry VIII., and the constitution of that charter being *now* placed in a clear and incontrovertible light, physicians will, in future, not be liable to be deceived respecting the true foundation of their rights to practise physic in London, and to be admitted members of that corporation; the information thus acquired, cannot fail soon to produce immense benefit to the public, and important and useful changes in the medical profession. Henceforward no one will, as a matter of course, acquiesce in the extravagant and injurious pretensions of the College, here demonstrated to be both assumed and illegal. No doctor will, in future become a licentiate of that body, but in compliance with the necessity imposed upon him, if he either is, or intends to be, a candidate for the office of Physician to any hospital, dispensary, or other public institution, of which the by-laws unjustly and injudiciously require that their Physicians should be Fellows, Candidates, or Licentiates of the London College. In confirmation of this, I may remark, that since the commencement of my contest with the College, they have been joined by fewer licentiates than formerly. Last year, from October 1827 to October 1828, they amounted only to eleven. This year they will probably be still less numerous; and but for the necessity imposed by the by-laws alluded to, it is my firm conviction there would be none.

Were the authors of this charge fully aware of all the difficulties under which I laboured, they would be little inclined either to blame my zeal or want of resolution. On my removal to the metropolis, about ten years since, I was called several times into consultation with the late Dr. Baillie, as I had often been during my abode in Lincolnshire. He urged me, at every opportunity, to become a licentiate, adding, that as I was now resident in London, unless I complied with the request, he could not, consistently with his obligations to the College, meet me as a physician.

With a view to fix my wavering determination, and arrive at a satisfactory conclusion, I stated my difficulties to a gentleman of great legal experience and eminence. He soon removed them, by informing me, among other consolatory circumstances, that the Fellows could only sue by their modern name of "President and Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians." That after having so long abandoned their proper title of "President and College or Commonalty of the King's College of Physicians, in the City of London," they could only recover it after proving their connexion with the statute 14 and 15 of

III. Moreover, that the reasonableness of every by-law, my interests as a physician, must be satisfactorily proved in fore they could enforce penalties under it. Encouraged by a pinion, in strict accordance with the result of all former in- , I resolved either to enter the College, according to the obvi- terpretation of the charter and the only legal mode of admitting bers, or to practise as an independent physician, regardless of the equences. I came the more readily to this conclusion because I confident, from the great respectability of the gentleman applied that a contention with the College would oblige the Fellows to punge some of their by-laws, and probably to restore the charter, all its purity, to the well educated physician.

Relying upon this opinion, and without any ill humour towards the Fellows, I forwarded my letters to Dr. Chambers and the Censors.* They were all written under a confident assurance, that the College would be obliged to establish by argument their legal existence, the reasonableness of their by-laws, and several other difficult matters, before they could claim mulcts for practice. This conviction will, I trust, sufficiently justify the bold language in which my letters were indited. In this dubious situation matters remained sometime, and when I supposed the business finally concluded, I received official notice that the action had commenced. In a short time afterwards, the Fellows proceeded to "declare," or set forth the objects of their suit. Upon receiving the latter notification, I called a meeting of my junior counsel and solicitors. It was at this consultation, and not sooner, that I was made acquainted with my actual situation. I then learned, for the first time, the difficulties of my position, and that the College would not be called upon to defend their by-laws, and what was more mortifying still, that the Judges would not suffer me to dispute their validity in a *qui tam* action. Mr. Campbell confirmed this doctrine at our last interview, only three days before the cause was decided. Upon receiving this information, I offered to surrender the verdict, if I should be suffered, on a second trial, or even in the House of Lords, to impugn the by-laws. Having received the assurance of both my counsel that I should gain nothing in a new trial nor any good by a removal into the House of Lords, I left them pursue their own course, and use their own discretion, in managi the suit. Had I suspected Miss Orton's dissimulation and treach before the cause came into court, I should have been prepare controvert her insidious machinations, and defeat the College s on the merits of my case.

During the long time that Miss Orton remained under my p sional directions I possessed her entire confidence, as I am pr to show by her own letters; nor had she ever given me re doubt her high sense of honour or strict adherence to the trut then resided in a very respectable family, where she had neith tation nor example to encourage a different course. Why s to live secluded with a young medical bachelor, *abruptly*, present inquiry. After she had determined on of her selection was carefully concealed.

* ...mbers of the Gazette of

justly alarmed, well knowing the dangerous connexions she had formed. I therefore interrogated her strictly concerning the part she intended to act in my trial. She replied, that no prescriptions of her's should ever be turned against me. The following morning she repeated the same assurances, adding, with emotion, and apparent sincerity, that I, who knew her so well, should be the last to suspect her veracity. Having strong reasons for thinking that she was under the management of needy and designing characters, I prevailed upon a mutual acquaintance to call and to ascertain, if possible, the temper of her mind, and her unreserved sentiments with respect to me and the approaching trial. Her expressions, on this occasion also, being equally explicit and satisfactory, I unfortunately no longer doubted her veracity and good faith. To have hesitated, after such repeated assurances, to give full credit to the declarations of a lady, who had never deceived me, would, I think, have shown both unbecoming scepticism and unjustifiable distrust. With this impression strongly fixed on my mind, and which was moreover strengthened by a correspondence with her brother, Miss Orton removed to her new lodgings, and I have never seen her since.

I had remained sometime in this delusory state of security, both as to Miss Orton and the trial, when, to my great surprise, the cause was unexpectedly taken, by some secret agency, out of its proper order, and set down for hearing on the following Thursday; the lawyers, on both sides, declaring their entire ignorance of the new arrangement, and of the hidden influence which produced it. Fortunately, the brief had been already prepared, with great care and ability, by my solicitors. To it, I afterwards subjoined no fewer than nine distinct propositions. My object in setting them down for argument, was to oblige the Fellows to defend the reasonableness of their by-laws, and the legality of their proceedings. The propositions were illustrated and supported with such reasons and deductions as occurred to me at the exigence of the moment. Could the judge have been prevailed upon to suffer their discussion, I really believe that the College would have lost both its authority and its charter. However I may lament this determination, as the points themselves could not be argued, we were obliged to submit. That due pains were taken on the part of my solicitors to bring the case properly into court, will, I think, be admitted when I add, that the brief alone filled thirty common sized folios, written in the usual manner. My own observations occupied eleven similar pages.

Such being the mode adopted in this struggle to obtain a full hearing of our grievances, I may confidently assert, that every care was taken on my part to conduct the affair with proper circumspection, and with a view to its thorough investigation.

At length the day of trial arrived, and it had scarcely opened, before I discovered, that so far from my propositions being deliberately argued, not one of them would be suffered to occupy the court for a single minute. It was on our side a Parthian contest from the first to the last, in which we could not make a single halt, but were successively driven from post to post. After the last had been carried, and no place of refuge could be found, the combat was suspended. A long pause ensued, which was interrupted by a call for

Miss Orton. The name no sooner vibrated on my ears, than I became fully alive to her duplicity and hypocrisy; but the knowledge came too late to admit of my attempting to rebut her evidence on the present occasion. Had I been defeated, a new trial would have enabled me to bring up fresh forces, and recover the victory. Happily the verdict renders it unnecessary for me to enter further into the contest; and I feel no desire to retaliate upon an unprotected female, who once possessed my esteem, and has, I believe, forfeited it more through the artifices of others than her own inclination. No sooner did Miss Orton's well-disciplined servant, Emma Edwards, stand up in the witness-box, than Mr. Campbell, tapping me on the shoulder, said "is this a spinal case?" I answered "yes." Not another word was exchanged between us during the remainder of the trial. The girl had a bundle of prescriptions put into her hand. They were tied together at one end, leaving them loose, and waving below. This ingenious contrivance produced an imposing display, and gave the appearance of a much greater collection of my prescriptions than she really possessed.

They were written for three different females—

1*st*, Several of them were for the witness herself, who was forced, on cross examination to admit, that I received no pecuniary remuneration from her. On this being conceded, the Judge ruled, that her case did not come within the meaning of the statute, or subject me to penalties for acting as a physician, the very essence of which consists in accepting fees.

2*dly*, Mrs. Purser, a poor, infirm, and bed-ridden widow, afforded another example of practice brought against me in this memorable trial. She laboured under a complication of maladies, aggravated by her contracted means. Her prescriptions increased the bundle held in the hand of Emma Edwards; but it must have been known both to her and the plaintiffs, that they were irrelevant, as they added nothing to my emolument.

3*dly*, The plaintiffs had pointed out another instance of practice. The object of it was actually subpœnaed and brought into court, though they did not venture to place him in the witness-box, having discovered that his evidence would prejudice their cause. This youth, an under waiter in Mr. M. Thompson's hotel, applied for my gratuitous advice. He afterwards became the patient of two junior Fellows. These gentlemen having induced the boy to give up my prescriptions, lodged them, as I am told, in the archives of their College, to be in readiness to appear in due time against me.

Although I do not intend, *at present*, to scrutinize the conduct of Miss Orton, or the extraordinary evidence of her female servant, it was in my power to have completely destroyed the force of their testimony, had it been suspected that this deceitful woman and her well-tutored attendant were to appear against me.

The Fellows, I am told, complain bitterly of the heavy cost of the trial. How all their money was expended does not appear. In the absence of direct proofs, we may be suffered to conjecture that, if Miss Orton was really endowed with greater fortitude than Danae, some of her partisans might not be equally insensible to the magic *influence of a golden shower*.

These were some of the mean arts to which my learned opponents did not hesitate to stoop, in order to obtain the verdict. After this explanation, it would, I think, be more than superfluous to produce fresh proofs of the *quo animo*, by which the governing members of the most ancient medical institution of the united kingdom contrive to bolster up their affairs and mislead the public.

I have already said that Mr. Campbell formed his successful appeal to the jury out of the expressive monosyllable "yes." He contended, *1st*, That the spinal disorder, under which Miss Orton suffered, belongs to the surgical department; and that practitioners are not required in the treatment of such maladies, to connect themselves with the College of Physicians. *2dly*, That before the Fellows could establish my liability to penalties under the statute, they must prove *continuous* practice for one whole month.

Mr. Campbell's eloquent address led to a verdict in my favour. It was certainly neither so complete nor satisfactory as I originally expected. But as we were not suffered to grapple with the by-laws, it was perhaps the best that could be obtained under the unexpected difficulties of our novel position.

The conclusions, arising out of the above premises, are,

1st, That the "College or Commonalty of the Faculty of Physic," erroneously denominated the "*Royal* College of Physicians," was established for the *equal* benefit of all Doctors of Physic residing within its boundaries.

2dly, That its members were indiscriminately taken from British and foreign universities, until the middle of last century, when a dominant party narrowed the admissions to graduates of Oxford and Cambridge.

3dly, That since this illegal derivation and application of the honours and revenues of the College, it has been sensibly declining in usefulness, in respectability, and in power.

4thly, That in the trial of Drs. Archer and Fothergill, also of Drs. Stanger and Cook, with the College, the contest was with Licentiates, or persons who, having voluntarily engaged to obey the by-laws, could not afterwards get disengaged from them.

5thly, That in the trial with Dr. Harrison, as the College sued only for penalties stated in the charter, the "wholesomeness" of the by-laws could not be brought under review, otherwise the defendant was prepared to show their illegality, their oppression, and their mischievous effects upon medical science and the faculty.

6thly, That the clause under which Dr. Harrison was prosecuted was not appilcable to him, because it refers only to those medical practitioners who, having procured no degree or authority to exercise medicine, from an university, are therefore required in the charter to be examined and licensed to practise by the College of Physicians.

Will the Fellows condescend to inform the public why this *delegated* power was applied to Dr. Harrison, a regular Graduate, an *homo facultatis*, instead of being enforced against the persons for whom it was really enacted?

The Fellows are requested, while giving their explanation, to bear in mind Lord Tenterden's recommendation to the jury, upon this particular trial,—"It is," said his Lordship, "our duty here to administer

the law, and if the law be wrong,* it is the legislature which must correct it, and not you or I."

7thly, That it follows, as a consequence of the preceding trials, that neither the licentiates nor independent physicians can obtain redress in the courts of law, merely because they are not members of the corporation; and that relief, when it is obtained, must be procured through the interference of Parliament.

Though I have already drawn largely upon the reader's patience, I am desirous to add to the above the cogent observations of two other chief justices.

In 1768, the Fellows were cautioned by Lord Mansfield "against narrowing their grounds of admission so much, that if even a Boerhaave should be resident here, he could not be admitted into the fellowship." Again, "I should recommend it to the College to take the best advice in reviewing their statutes, and to attend to the design and intention of the Crown and Parliament in their institution. I see a source of great dispute and litigation in them, as they now stand: there has not, as it should seem, been due consideration had of the charter, or legal advice taken, in forming them." "I think that every person of proper education, requisite learning, and skill, and possessed of all other due qualifications, is entitled to have a licence: and I think that he ought, if he desires it, to be admitted into the College." And again, "They are bound to admit every person whom, upon examination, they think to be fit to be admitted, within the description of the charter, and act of Parliament which confirms it. The person, who comes within that description, has a right to be admitted into the fellowship."

In 1799, Lord Kenyon says, "By what fatality it is that almost ever since this charter has been granted, this learned body has, some how or other, lived in a course of litigation, I know not; one is rather surprised, when one considers, that the several members of this body, including the licentiates, the commonalty of this corporation, are very learned men; and inasmuch as it is not generally the fruits of learning, at least not the best fruits of learning, to get into litigation, one cannot well tell how these learned gentlemen have fallen into so much litigation."

With these remarks and quotations, which might have been considerably extended, I take leave of the College. I can with truth declare, at parting, that I do not entertain the slightest feeling of hostility or of prejudice towards any of the Fellows, notwithstanding the altered behaviour of some of them towards me, since the late decision in Westminster Hall.

If they could be induced to listen to any advice of mine, I would entreat them, in the spirit of peace, to follow the recommendation of Lord Mansfield. By complying with his admonitions, they will exalt the reputation of the College, and restore harmony to a distracted profession. I am, Sir, &c. EDWARD HARRISON.

Holles Street, Cavendish Square June 12th, 1829.

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* It is not the law, but its misapplication, of which I complain.

DISTORTION OF THE LOWER EXTREMITIES.

(*Continued from page 579.*)

SIR,—A boy was placed under my care when he was seven years old: he had his right foot distorted; it had been so from his birth, and continued to increase in deformity, notwithstanding many attempts had been made to relieve him, though without the least success. When I first saw him, his toes were of the natural form, but the whole metatarsus was distorted at its junction with the tarsus, the foot was so twisted from its natural position, and the toes pointed directly towards the opposite leg; he stood upon a callosity which had been formed on the outer edge of the foot, upon the cuneiform bone; the sole of the foot was exposed to view as he stood, the whole foot was perfectly rigid, and the leg was much wasted.

After four months' constant attention the foot was so much altered, that it might be placed in its natural position while he stood upon it, but it was incapable of any voluntary motion. When he endeavoured to walk, his foot hung an useless appendage to his leg, and immediately fell into its former unnatural position. In eight months more the foot was so far reduced to the natural state, that the patient could walk upon it in the same manner as he did upon his other foot; but after he had done so for a short time, it relapsed again towards its original state; and it was necessary to resume the treatment which had before been effectual; it was continued ten months longer; it was then discontinued for six weeks, and, as at the end of that time there appeared to be no tendency to relapse, I relinquished it altogether; I had frequent opportunity of seeing this boy for several years, as he approached manhood, and his foot always retained the form that it had received, and was quite equal in power to his other foot.

When this case first came under my care, I had a cast taken from it in plaster of Paris, and from that cast the two figures that are annexed were drawn. Figure 1 represents a front view of the bones of the leg; these bones being viewed in front, the dorsum of the foot being likewise fronting the spectator, with the toe turned inwards, and the callosity upon the edge of the foot, upon the outer cuneiform bone, will give as correct an idea of the deformity of this foot as can be conveyed by any one view.

Figure 2 is a front view of the same leg, taken after it was restored to all its natural powers. In this view the bones of the leg are likewise seen under the same point of view. By comparing these two views together, a very correct idea may be formed of the alterations that were produced by curing the distortion of this foot.

Figure 3 is a view of this foot taken when looking at the outside, as it is seen in profile; the heel is visible on the spectator's left hand, the astragalus on his right, and the callosity upon which he

stood. Without these explanations it would be difficult to understand that this figure represented any human foot.

Figure 4 represents a view of the same foot after it was restored; the leg in this, as in the former, is drawn in profile; the heel is seen on the left hand of the spectator; there are some wrinkles visible on the dorsum, and outside of the foot, that will be explained presently. By comparing these four views of the same foot when under different circumstances, a very accurate idea of the condition of the patient, both before and after the cure, may be formed.

Whoever is acquainted with the structure and natural position of the bones of the foot, will perceive, upon looking at these views, that there was no distortion in the bones of the metatarsus, individually, or with respect to each other; but that the entire metatarsus began to form an acute angle, turning directly inwards at its junction with the cuneiform bones: in these again there appears to have been little distortion, either with regard to their mutual connexion, or their connexion with the astragalus; but the astragalus itself was so far removed from its natural situation, that instead of its circular head lying in or under the scaphoid cavity of the tibia, it lay in a direct line with and perpendicular to the bones of the leg. The os calcis, instead of being placed upon the ground, lay in contact with the back part of the tibia, and the scaphoid cavity of this bone rested upon those parts of the tarsus and the astragalus by which they were joined together. The result of this combination was, that the patient stood and could walk only upon the callosity which had formed upon the outer edge of the cuneiform bone: add to this, that the distortion took place before the birth, and by remaining in this state till the patient was seven years old, all the bones became so firmly connected as to form one mass, perfectly rigid, and no part of it seemed to be endued with any capacity for loco-motion. As all these parts were restored to their natural relative positions, and the foot was perfectly cured, it is certain that in this case there was no mal-formation of individual bones of the foot; and as I have seen, in every case of congenital distortion that has been under my care, that the restoration of its natural form has been complete, I do not believe, that in any case of varus, malformation of individual bones takes place; in other distortions, the effect may be otherwise.

When these deformities are suffered to exist till the patient is far advanced towards maturity, peculiar forms in some of the bones may take place. In this case the malleus externus was uncommonly large, was bent outwards, and laid backwards so as to be nearly level with the tendo achillis. This was, in all probability, caused by the pressure which the bones of the foot made upon it as the patient walked, and forced the fibula backwards, till it had receded as far as it could. When this happens, the ankle joint has a defective form, and gives the foot a clumsy appearance, even when its natural action is regained, which, for this reason, should always be done, although effected with considerable difficulty; and it was long after I was able to restore all other parts of these feet to their natural form, that I acquired the power of overcoming this peculiarity.

I am, Sir, yours, &c. T. SHELDRAKE.

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTE *of* HEALTH.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION AND ERYSIPELAS.

For the following remarks on pulmonary consumption, and cases of disease of the lungs and erysipelatous swelling of an arm, we are indebted to Mr. Firth, a respectable surgeon of London.

"Great sensation has been manifested for some months past respecting the cure of pulmonary consumption by Mr. Long. I am one of the many who deprecate his mode of treatment, as much more likely to prove injurious than otherwise. It is obvious to all well-educated medical practitioners, that a stimulating plan of treatment, in the first stage of this disease, accelerates the process of suppuration in the lungs; and daily experience testifies, that stimulants hasten the termination of the suppurative stage in death.

Dr. Cullen has classed this disease as a consequence of hæmoptysis, which, although it is well known not always to be the case, there are, in my opinion, circumstances connected with this disease to warrant the adoption. Admitting there are cases arising from an inflammatory diathesis, and delicate structure of the pulmonary organs, what probability is there in a stimulating mode of treatment curing the disease? Such treatment must be premature death to the patient. I feel called upon to say, that this mode of practice is equally dangerous in the incipient stage of tuberculated consumption; for by the use of stimulants we increase the circulation of the blood, and thereby excite the latent tubercles into suppuration, which, when once established, the general opinion is, that no known remedy can save the patient.

If a stimulating diet, in conjunction with remedies of the same nature, promote the suppuration of an abscess, whether in the lungs, or in any part of the body, and, that that abscess, in a state of suppuration, will destroy life, Mr. Long should be compelled to give his reasons for adopting this mode of treatment.

The principal points to be considered in the treatment of this disease are the following:—

1*st*, Reduce the inflammatory diathesis.

2*dly*, Produce absorption of the tubercles.

3*dly*, Promote the healing of ulcers when suppuration has taken place. Endeavour to fulfil the first indication by refrigerants and sedatives; the patient continuing in a state of rest and quietude; mild dry air; diet, strictly antiphlogistic.

The second intention will be best fulfilled by remedies which increase the action of the absorbents and glandular systems, without increasing the circulation of the sanguineous fluid. Diet, very mild and easy of digestion.

The third indication requires the same treatment as the second, with the addition of some sedative inhaled. Diet, mild and nutritious.

The following case illustrates the beneficial results of the foregoing treatment:—

Miss Brooks, eight years of age, had measles in May, 1828, which were accompanied with inflammation of the lungs; the result of these affections was a short dry cough, which continued to increase, and was attended with low fever. After having medical advice for some time in London, she was sent into the country; for a short time the country air appeared to benefit her, but afterwards the cough increased. She was removed home, when her cough became very bad, and she expectorated a tea-cupful of matter in the twenty-four hours. Emaciation, expectoration, and night perspiration, increased to a very alarming degree, and she was

propped up in bed, not being able to lay down through fear of suffocation. I was called to her on the 12th of December, and found her in the state described. On the termination of the month of February she was perfectly recovered, and remains so to the present time.

In the Number of the *Gazette of Health*, for May, page 551, you have called the attention of your readers to several cases of erysipelatous tumefactions of the lower extremities, cured by compressing the limbs with a roller. The following case will illustrate the efficay of such treatment. Mrs. W., aged sixty-five years, in July, 1828, while entering her kitchen, fell down *and fractured her thigh*. In falling backwards, she struck her arm against one of the steps, and lacerated it very considerably. On the following morning, erysipelatous inflammation made its appearance, and in the course of the day, the arm was considerably tumefied. I ordered the wound to be covered with a bread and water poultice, the arm to be bathed constantly with the compound saturnine lotion, and the bowels to be evacuated. These remedies were used for some days, still the inflammation and tumefaction increased, and extended from the ends of the fingers to the axilla. The arm was now enveloped in bread poultice, and the poultice kept moistened with the above lotion. The inflammation and swelling continued to increase, and I ordered fomentations and the poultice to be continued.

These symptoms appeared to receive no mitigation from the above, but continued to increase, attended with low muttering delirium. Finding my patient get worse under the above treatment, in conjunction with effervescing ammoniated draughts, I ordered the arm to be rolled, beginning at the tips of the fingers and continued to the shoulder; this to be moistened constantly with the above lotion, and the roller changed night and morning. In twenty-four hours, I found decided amendment, and in a few days, the inflammation and tumefaction were very considerably reduced. In a month from the commencement, the lacerated part was healed, and in three months my patient walked out on crutches.

48, *Clifton Street, Finsbury Square,*
June 5, 1829.

To the EDITOR of the GAZETTE of HEALTH.

INDIGESTION, &c.

The following cases are presented to the public for the purpose of proving the efficacy of galvanism in disorders of the digestive organs and the nervous system. The names and addresses of the parties are given agreeably to their request.

Copy of a Letter from Lieut.-Colonel Reid, of the Bengal Cavalry.

7, *Old Cavendish Street*, 26*th May*, 1829.

My dear Sir,—You will not be surprised at my finding much difficulty in stating the nature of my numerous complaints, when I inform you, that no two of the professional men, who attended me for upwards of ten years, have been of the same opinion respecting them. I can, therefore, merely state that, at the period I consulted you, my liver and spleen appeared considerably affected; the former extremely inert, and the latter considerably enlarged. For years I had daily suffered from the most acute spasms in my stomach and bowels, attended with giddiness, which frequently subjected me to fits both at home and abroad; I need scarcely add, that my digestion was so completely impaired that it mattered not what system of diet I pursued; my stomach had entirely lost

its power, and every article of food was voided without having undergone the process of digestion; deafness, which rendered me totally unfit for society, I also suffered from. I attended you for about five months, and, after the third or fourth application of galvanism, I began rapidly to recover. The vapour bath I also used a few times, and, afterwards, electricity was applied to my head for deafness: the latter has not been attended with so much success as I could wish; but my health and strength being perfectly restored, and my digestion perfect, I have no doubt, if I was not constantly suffering under a severe cold in my head, that I should recover my hearing still more than I have, if not entirely.

This statement will, I apprehend, appear to you very imperfect, but it is the best I am able to draw out, and you are at liberty to correct and make any use of it you may deem advisable; for it will afford me sincere satisfaction, should it in any shape be the means of inducing others to obtain from your professional skill, a cure similar to that which I enjoy. I have now only to request your acceptance of my most grateful thanks for your unremitting kindness and attention whilst I was your patient, and believe me, my dear Sir, yours, very sincerely,

M. La Beaume, Esq. S. Reid.

Copy of a Letter from E. L. Eve, Lieut. of the Royal Navy.

8, *Panton-square, May 6th*, 1829.

Sir,—It was my intention to have written to you before, but more than usual occupation has prevented me. I now write Sir, to express my conviction of the benefit I received while under your direction in the application of galvanism. I shall not attempt to give you a minute description of my case—a general statement will probably recall the particulars to your recollection. In 1824, after six years service in a warm climate, I came on shore on half-pay, extremely reduced in bodily strength from the effects of violent medicines, to which I had had continual recourse for three years, for the purpose of exciting the liver to perform its functions. Such was the torpid state of the liver and bowels, that the most powerful medicines continued to be necessary even after coming on shore, and continued so till January 1825, when I (through a friend) heard of your successful treatment of such cases by means of galvanism. I was recommended to try it, I did so; and have a grateful pleasure in recollecting that, although the galvanism did not for the first three or four days seem to produce any decided good effect, yet, after the first week, I felt a decided improvement: I found that, instead of the most disagreeable and debilitating calomel preparations which I had been accustomed to take, a common dose of rhubarb and magnesia was sufficient. I soon found that I gained strength, and after the application of galvanism for nearly a month, I left town, under the conviction that it had been eminently useful to me. If my engagements had not called me away I should have continued a week or ten days longer, but air and exercise soon completed what galvanism had begun; and I have the happiness, through God's blessing, of saying that I have ever since, with trifling intermission, been in good and vigorous health. I have pleasure, Sir, in offering this testimony to the beneficial effects which I have derived from your treatment: and, in so doing, permit me to express my grateful recollection of your diligent and kind attention,

I am, Sir, your humble servant,

M. La Beaume, Esq. E. L. Eve, Lieut. R. N.

INTERMITTENT FEVER.

DR. JACKSON, in his late clinical reports of cases treated in the infirmary of the Alms-house of the City and County of Philadelphia, after relating several cases of intermittent fever, attended with local inflammatory excitement of some viscus or part of the contents of the abdomen, makes the following judicious practical remarks on its medical management:—

"In the treatment of intermittent fever, the type of the disease should be disregarded so long as symptoms of any local inflammation are strongly marked. The local affection is of the first importance, for no *permanent* impression can be made on the disease until it be subdued. This precept is universal, not only as it respects chronic, but also acute or recent intermittents. The paroxysms of fever, notwithstanding their periodical character, are as much sympathetic, and as clearly emanate from the local affection as continued or inflammatory fever, that are unequivocally the product of topical inflammation. The simple removal of the local affection is very frequently all that is necessary to dissipate periodical febrile disturbance: but when they are removed, the Peruvian bark in powder, or its preparations, which were formerly inefficacious, are now remedies of almost specific certainty in arrresting the malady, or in preventing the recurrence of the paroxysm."

There is, unquestionably, a great difference between the general febrile disturbance of the system from local inflammation and the fever produced by marsh effluvia; and we cannot agree with Dr. Jackson that real intermittent fever is ever symptomatic of local inflammation or irritation; for, on the contrary, it has always appeared to us that the local irritation or inflammation is occasioned by the febrile disturbance disordering a part either preternaturally tender, or disposed to, disease. We have always observed the fever to precede the local irritation many days.

Whether the doctor's theory be correct or otherwise, his remarks on the impropriety of administering the Peruvian bark, or its preparations, or any other tonic medicine, as long as local excitement or inflammation exists, are very judicious. The doctor notices a few cases of intermittent fever, in which the sulphate of quinine and the other remedies which usually succeed in common cases of intermittent, proved injurious, in consequence of local inflammation or congestion. In one case, attended with considerable congestion of the vessels of the brain threatening apoplexy, the patient was bled several times; after which the sulphate of quinine, exhibited in the small dose of a grain every hour, soon effected a cure. The propriety of preparing the system for the use of a particular remedy, especially one of a specific nature, we have frequently endeavoured to impress on the minds of our readers. Many valuable remedies have, doubtless, fallen into disuse in consequence of an injudicious administration, and simple affections are often rendered serious by neglect of a proper preparatory treatment.

When the liver, the spleen, or the peritoneum is inflamed, Doctor Jackson recommends general bleeding or local abstraction of blood, according to the state of the system of blood-vessels, and if it, with

an active aperient, should not succeed, a blister to be applied over the part. Dr. Hunt, an eminent physician of Pennsylvania, recommends the tartar emetic ointment to be rubbed over the part daily till the eruptions produced by it are about to maturate, in lieu of blistering. In simple cases, a blister, with an active aperient, as calomel and jalap, generally succeeds in subduing the local excitement or inflammation.

When the liver or spleen is chronically affected, and when the former is in a sluggish state, five grains of blue pill are to be given twice a-day for four days previously to the use of the sulphate of quinine, or any other preparation of the bark. In one case of intermittent fever of long standing, two grains of the sulphate of quinine, with a grain of piperine, administered every two hours, under the direction of Dr. Jones, of Pennsylvania, succeeded in effecting a cure in a few days. This mode of giving the sulphate of quinine is very common in Italy.

PILES.

We have met with several cases of piles of long standing, some of which were attended with considerable irritation in the rectum, and some evidently with thickening of the internal membrane of the lower part of the rectum, or incipient stricture, in which the use of a suppository composed of the expressed oil of the cacoa-nut (the nut of which chocolate is made), the walnut oil, and spermaceti, has been attended with success. The suppository, which is run in a mould of about the size of a thimble, is of a conical form, to facilitate its introduction into the rectum. This is, we understand from a respectable gentleman lately returned from France, a very favourite remedy with several eminent surgeons of Paris. The expressed oil of the cacoa-nut, which is very soothing and lubricating, and of a consistence nearly as firm as wax, is in much demand in Paris. In cases of stricture or ulceration of the rectum, or of chronic inflammation, or considerable irritation, an alterative or sedative may be added. From the uniform beneficial effects of this remedy in cases of external and internal piles, and irritative affections of the rectum, in which we have known it used, we have no hesitation in saying that it will succeed in cases of stricture of the lower part of the rectum, as well, if not much better, than the bougie, over which it has the important advantage of being incapable of doing mischief.

ASTHMA.

Dr. Thomas Henderson, Lecturer on the theory and practice of Medicine, at the Columbian College, D. C. recommends the following mixture as a remedy for spasmodic asthma, when attended with indigestion and general nervousness—

Take of Tincture of Squill, half an ounce.
Nitric Acid,
Extract of Henbane, of each one drachm;
Distilled Water, eight ounces.—Mix.

A table-spoonful to be taken three times a-day. When the breathing becomes easy, the expectoration ceases, and the urine natural,

the Doctor advises a tea-spoonful of the following electuary to be taken three times a-day, and immediately afterward, ten drops of the elixir of vitriol, in a wine-glass of water.

Take of Prepared Rust of Iron, half an ounce;
Rhubard Powder, one drachm;
Honey, a sufficient quantity to form a soft electuary.

A mixture of the infusion of the chirayita herb; the tincture of the *lobelia inflata*, and the subcarbonate of soda, in the following proportions, has been taken with the most decided advantage by several nervous asthmatics, whose digestive organs were at the time much disordered—

Take of Infusion of Chirayita, seven ounces;
Tincture of ditto, one ounce;
Tincture of the Lobelia Inflata, two drachms;
Subcarbonate of Soda, two drachms.—Mix.

The dose of this mixture is from two to three table-spoonsful three times a-day.

The composition of the lobelia inflata, recommended by Dr. Robinson, in his Treatise on the Round-leaf Cornel, is certainly more efficacious in terminating or preventing the asthmatic paroxysm than the stramonium.

We have lately met with a case of asthma of long standing, in a gentleman, (Mr. Smith,) about sixty-five years of age, attended with symptoms of considerable structural mischief in the large vessels of the chest, if not of the heart, with an effusion of serum, and such an alarming degree of general debility as to indicate approaching dissolution, in which the inhalation of the oxygen gas had a most beneficial effect. After inhaling a few quarts daily, for three days, Mr. Smith experienced very considerable facility of breathing; his appetite improved; he was able to sleep nearly in an horizontal position, which he had not done for many weeks, and the œdematous swelling of the legs, which was very considerable, rapidly subsided. During the use of oxygen, he took five grains of the blue pill every night, which had the effect of keeping the bowels in a regular state. He returned to his cottage, in the neighhourhood of Broadway, nearly in a state of health.

TRACHEOTOMY, *(division of the wind-pipe.)*

Dr. Howe, of Bellerica, Massachusets, has published an interesting case of a bean forced into the wind-pipe, for the removal of which, he had recourse to the division of the wind-pipe. The patient was only two years of age. On completing the division in the usual way, the bean was suddenly forced through the opening, which the Doctor attributes entirely to the position in which the patient was placed, which he thus describes—

"The child was firmly secured on the back by the hands of assistants, the nape of the neck resting on a roll of cloth, the head carried far back over the end of the table. An incision was made from the lower edge. Immediately on withdrawing the finger, which had been introduced to separate the edges of the wound, the bean was expelled with considerable force. This," says the doctor, "saved me the

trouble of attempting that part of the operation, which I most dreaded, for experience had taught me to envy no man the pleasure of probing the wind-pipe for a foreign body." The edges of the wound were brought into contact, and soon united.

MORBID ELONGATION OF THE UVULA.

The Editors of the American Journal of the Medical Sciences have published a case of an obstinate and distressing cough, occasioned by the mechanical action of an elongated diseased uvula, which was communicated by Professor Henderson. In consequence of the cough having continued so long, and of being attended with increasing emaciation, copious expectoration, &c. &c., the patient was considered to be consumptive. Dr. Henderson finding the uvula to be much elongated, and its structure to be hard, (resembling cartilage), did not hesitate to pronounce it to be the exciting cause. He accordingly removed a considerable portion of it, when the patient instantly exclaimed, "I am well." From this time the cough ceased, and the patient's health rapidly improved till it arrived at its natural standard. The doctor says, he has since amputated an elongated uvula, which had occasioned cough, with the same beneficial effect. The quantity of blood that escaped was very trifling, only a few drops, and the wound, which healed in four days, was not attended with any inconvenience. In an early number of this work, we have noticed a case of spasmodic cough, which was clearly occasioned by an elongated uvula, and which almost immediately terminated after the removal of a portion of it by the scissors. The uvula in a leucophlegmatic temperament is very apt to become edematous, and thereby to occasion, by coming in contact with the epiglottis, irritative cough; and in asthmatics, is no doubt a common exciting cause of asthma, and in others, of constitutional cough. The amputation of the uvula is an old operation. Wiseman notices it in his Surgery, published in 1776. He observes, that the elongated uvula, by "touching the root of the tongue or the epiglottis, causeth a vexatious catarrh." He relates two cases in which he removed a portion of the uvula by means of forceps and scissors. The operation in both cases succeeded after all other remedies had failed.

TIC DOULOUREUX.

Dr. P. Richet, of Metz, relates in his thesis presented to the Faculty of Medicine of Strasbourg, four cases of this disease, which, after resisting the ordinary treatment, yielded to the administration of powdered Peruvian bark one grain, and snuff two grains, mixed and used as snuff. He says he always found the above dose sufficient, and in the course of two or three days to cure the malady, as if by enchantment.

SCROFULOUS CONSUMPTION.

The Editors of a Parisian Medical Journal have published a case of scrofulous consumption of the lungs in its second stage, in which e following composition, administered every four hours, in a little th

barley-water, succeeded in removing the affection of the lungs, and in establishing the general health.

Take of Sulphate of Quinine, two grains;
Powdered Leaves of the Foxglove, half a grain;
Powdered Sweet Fennel Seeds, twenty grains.—Mix.

GLANDULAR ENLARGEMENTS.

The celebrated Professor Dupuytren recommends the following ointment as a powerful resolvent of tumefied glands.

Take of the Strong Mercurial Ointment, one drachm and a half;
Hydrochlorate of Ammonia, six grains.—To be well mixed.

The Professor recommends the size of a small nutmeg to be well rubbed on the skin covering the tumour every night or morning. He thinks the stimulating effects of the ammoniacal salt affords powerful assistance to the resolvent qualities of the mercurial ointment; by irritating the skin it certainly promotes the absorption of the ointment.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

A physician of Toulouse has published a case of Puerperal Fever, attended with very unfavourable symptoms, in which the application of ice to the surface of the abdomen, and drinking freely of iced water, after copious bleeding, proved successful. The day after the adoption of this practice, the patient perspired copiously, the mammary glands secreted milk, and the lochia reappeared. The patient entirely recovered in a few days.

LOSS OF SIGHT FROM OPACITY OF THE CORNEA.

The following composition is much recommended by the Editors of the Parisian Journal of Chemistry, as an efficacious application to promote the absorption of lymph effused between the layers of the cornea in cases of opacity.

Take of Calcined Mercury, Agaric Powder, of each half a drachm;
White sugar, finely powdered, one ounce.—Well mixed.

A small quantity to be blown on the surface of the ball of the eye, through a quill, daily.

POISONING BY THE DEADLY NIGHTSHADE.

In a French Work, entitled the "New Medical Library," a case of poisoning by the deadly nightshade, is published, in which copious general and local bleeding, emollient lavemens, frequent fomentation of the abdomen proved so beneficial, that within twenty-four hours the patient was perfectly recovered!!" Twenty-five leeches were applied over the region of the stomach. The patient (a man about forty-six years of age) soon after taking forty-four grains of the recently-powdered leaves of the deadly nightshade, was attacked with violent head ache, especially over the orbits; the eyes were inflamed, and the skin exhibited an intense red appearance. He complained of great heat in the throat and along the gullet. The fauces were much inflamed.

TARTAR OF THE TEETH.

Since we published the discovery of the cause of the collection on the teeth, termed tartar, by Mr. La Beaume, several gentlemen have laid claim to the priority of it. One gentleman states that the fact was noticed by a physician of Bourdeaux many years ago. A gentleman, who has devoted much time to microscopical examinations of several products of the three kingdoms of nature, assures us that he observed the animalculæ in the tartar of the teeth, described by Mr. La Beaume, upwards of thirty years since. Mr. La Beaume observed the animalculæ nearly twenty years ago, but although he was not aware, at the time he communicated the fact to us, that they had been observed by others, he is pleased to find that the fact, which can be so readily demonstrated, is confirmed by the reports of others. As we stated in our last number, Mr. La Beaume had no other motive in giving publicity to his discovery than to recommend a management of the teeth and gums founded on it, and which has uniformily succeeded in destroying the animalculæ, and thereby preserving the teeth and gums in a healthy state, and preventing the offensive odour of the breath occasioned by the animalculæ. One gentleman, about seventy years of age, who discovered the animalculæ upwards of thirty years ago, says, that by adopting an *alcaline* lotion, with the view of destroying them, he has preserved all his teeth in a perfectly healthy state.

Mr. La Beaume's father, who lived in the East Indies, employed the lotion of the acetic acid, noticed in our last Number, for many years; and at the time of his death, when he was upwards of seventy years of age, he had not lost one tooth, and all were not only sound but firmly fixed in their sockets. He also regularly employed the levigated areca charcoal.

The late Dr. Lynd, of Bengal, adopted the same treatment, and at the age of eighty-five his gums and teeth were perfectly healthy. It is worthy of notice, that the teeth and gums of those who have been in the habit of using the levigated areca charcoal and the tincture of rhatany, regularly, as directed by us in our *Medical Guide*, and by Professor Hertz in his popular *Treatise on the Teeth*, are particularly sound and healthy. Mr. Crampton, a scientific dentist of Upper Berkeley Street, assures us that he has observed for many years that the teeth and gums of those who had resided many years in the East Indies, and had been in the habit of using the areca charcoal, were particularly healthy, and that it was very common to find them at an advanced age with a complete set, free from any appearance of disease. He, as well as ourselves, has also observed that superficial partial decays of the enamel of the teeth have disappeared and new enamel formed during the use of the levigated charcoal as directed by Professor Hertz.

TUBERCLES.

Mr. Monday, a scientific surgeon of Olverton, has published a case of tubercles in the lungs, and numerous tubercular bodies in the omentum, the peritoneal covering of the liver, mesentery and small intestines, which he attributes to the "*remote* consequence of indigestion." The

patient, a young man, was about nineteen years of age:—at the age of twelve, he read Dr. Lambe's work on the *benefit* of vegetable diet, and being of a scrofulous habit, and supposing that he was predisposed to pulmonary consumption, he resolved to follow the advice of Dr. Lambe, in drawing his support solely from the vegetable kingdom, viz. the usual products of the garden, potatoes, beet, and (when in season) cucumbers, radishes, lettuce, &c.; and the fruits, as apples, pears, oranges, &c. together with bread and biscuits, and drinking only *distilled* water. During the adoption of this regimen, he more or less suffered from indigestion and irritation in the lungs. At length he fell a sacrifice to tubercular consumption. On opening the body, six hours after dissolution, the following appearances were exhibited. The right lung was full of tubercles, and in the part to which he had referred as the seat of his malady, there was a tubercular abscess, about the size of a walnut. The omentum was also full of tubercles; the peritoneum was covered with tubercular productions, and the portion covering the liver appeared as if studded with grains of rice. The small intestines, and the mesentery were covered with large granulated bodies. The ventricles of the brain contained about two ounces of serum, and the cerebellum (the little brain) was *very soft*, and pultaceous, readily broken down by the slightest pressure. This case we consider particularly interesting, inasmuch as it affords strong evidence in favour of the opinion we have noticed under the head of the leucophlegmatic, or verminous temperament, viz. that a vegetable diet favours the production of worms, hydatids and tubercles. Dr. Lambe would act wisely in attending to the *softening* effect of such diet on the cerebellum, before it takes place in his cerebrum, of the solidity of which we entertain no high opinion. Dr. Robinson, in his Practical Treatise on the Diet of Elderly People, states, that he has observed, those who have recommended or adopted a vegetable diet, and fancied they derived benefit from it, with whom he was acquainted, were predisposed to mania.

DROPSY.

Mr. Bradfield, an experienced surgeon of London Wall, has communicated to Mr. Wakley a case of dropsy, in which the internal and external use of iodine proved successful. The patient, a female, (Mercy Millham,) having been repeatedly tapped, and the legs scarrified, without any permanent beneficial result, Mr. Bradfield, from reading Dr. Gairdner's treatise, resolved to give iodine a trial. He prescribed eight drops of the tincture, to be given in a wine-glass of cold water, three times a-day, and a liniment of tincture of iodine, (one ounce,) compound soap liniment, (three ounces and a half,) to be well rubbed, two or three times a-day, over the integuments of the legs. In two months the patient was able to resume her domestic employments. The abdomen and legs were reduced to their natural size, and she was capable of walking upwards of a mile without experiencing fatigue.

DIABETES.

The editors of the American "Journal of Medical Science" have published, in their number for February last, a case of diabetes, from the pen of Dr. Samuel Jackson, a scientific physician of Northumberland, North America. The patient, a man about forty years of age, was greatly affected with all the

ymptoms of true diabetes, The doctor directed his medical friend to administer "Dover's Sudorific Powders," as freely every evening as his stomach ould admit it, to put his feet several hours into a tub of hot water, under he bed-clothes, while he lay extended on his back, and well covered. His iet was confined to animal food, and he was desired to drink as little as ossible, and in fine to avoid every thing which was likely to impose ibour on the kidneys. This mode of treatment succeeded in restoring the atient to perfect health.

THERAPEUTICS.

NEW GALVANIC APPARATUS.

Mr. La Beaume, who has made many important discoveries in the hemical and medical process of Galvanism, and in augmenting the orce of the galvanic plates, to produce a more rapid and copious xcitation of the galvanic influence, has recently constructed two ery ingenious and useful machines for the more easy and effectual dministration of galvanism. One of these apparatus is the Galvanic egulator, for the purpose of proportioning the galvanic power to the ensibilities of a patient; and the other for producing a regular succession of vibrations, and precluding the possibility of giving shocks. By these mechanical aids the galvanic influence, as administered by Mr. a Beaume, in his *peculiar* mode, is rendered more *agreeable* to the eelings of his *patients*, and more *beneficial* in their complaints. The lan on which Mr. La Beaume's galvanic troughs are constructed, is nore powerful and portable than the ordinary way in which those pparatus are made—and by the aid of the galvanic regulator and ibrator, any practitioner, who is acquainted with the theory of medical alvanism, may be able to dispense it with safety and advantage.

The high reputation which galvanism has obtained from Mr. La Beaume's successful practice in stomach and liver complaints, and ubsequently in that of Dr. Fabre Palaprat, of Paris,† and the continental physicians and surgeons who have adopted Mr. La Beaume's node of employing this agent in the cure of chronic diseases, has led o its general adoption by professional gentlemen in London. From ur observations of the utility of galvanic agency as a curative process, re may venture to recommend the more general employment of the gent in those diseases of the nervous system, and of the digestive rgans, which medicine cannot cure. Mr. La Beaume, as it appears rom his advertisement in our last number, has evinced his liberality o the medical profession and to the afflicted, by offering to procure for hem electric galvanic batteries, and such baths as he uses in his practice, with directions for their proper administration, at the lowest rice they can be manufactured at with the best materials. We therefore hope that the members of the healing art particularly will avail themselves of such important aids, and that invalids who can visit the metropolis, will thus derive the benefits of galvanism under the management of their medical attendants, in whose hands Mr. La Beaume ppears very desirous these powerful remedies should be placed.

† The translator of Mr. La Beaume's Work on Galvanism into French.

SULPHATE OF QUININE.

Mr. Wakely has published the following new method of obtaining the sulphate of quinine, translated from a Parisian Journal.

"Two pounds of powdered *yellow* bark are boiled for a quarter of an hour, in a pint of water, in which one ounce and a half of caustic potash has been dissolved; the decoction is filtered and expressed, and water poured on the remainder as long as it is coloured by it. The residuum is now boiled for twenty minutes in twelve pints of water, to which an ounce of sulphuric acid has been added; the decoction is filtered and washed as before, and the remainder boiled in the same quantity of water, with a drachm of sulphuric acid. The acidulated decoctions are now mixed, and powdered chalk added to them, in order to saturate the excess of acid, and to precipitate the colouring matter; the fluid is filtered, and a sufficient quantity of subcarbonate of potash added to it; the precipitate is collected, washed, and boiled, in six times its weight of alcohol at forty degrees; the decoction being filtered and evaporated to one-third, five times the quantity of water is added to the rest, and all the alcohol driven off by a gentle heat. The quinine is now saturated with a few drops of sulphuric acid, by the admixture of which the fluid becomes perfectly clear, and is filtered almost in a boiling state, after a small quantity of powdered chalk has been added. As soon as the fluid cools, the sulphate of quinine is deposited in white acicular crystals."

ERGOT OF RYE.

A surgeon of Brighouse, near Halifax, in a letter to Mr. Wakely, observes, "Within the last seven months I have administered the ergot of rye in thirty-six successive cases, and do not hesitate to affirm, that it may be given in any state of labour with the greatest safety and the most beneficial result to the patient. In a case of prolapsus uteri, I administered two half drachm doses of the powder, which speedily produced contraction, no manual assistance being required. I have further to remark, that in no case have I observed that it has caused the suppression of the lochial discharge. In five cases of uterine hæmorrhage, not depending upon pregnancy, it has had the effect of stopping the discharge without administering any other remedy."

ESSENTIAL SALT OF THE ROUND LEAF CORNEL.

We have met with many cases of general and local debility in which this elegant preparation, which contains, in a concentrated state, all the medicinal virtues of the round leaf cornel, has been administered with the most decided advantage. In cases of fluor albus, gleet, and debility of the sphincter muscles of the bladder and rectum, it seems to act like a charm, first by invigorating the digestive organs, and secondly by removing the local debility or relaxation. For the indigestion or general or local debility of elderly people or invalids, who have been feeble from their infancy, it is a most admirable remedy, and as we and others, who have given it a trial, have uniformily found it agree with the stomach, we are disposed to consider it, as Dr. Robinson represents it to be, the natural tonic of man. With

the following case of general debility, in which this preparation of the round-leaf cornel was successfully administered, we are well acquainted.—Mrs. E. of R., aged fifty-six, had been afflicted with indigestion for upwards of ten years. About the middle of November last she visited London for medical assistance. She was then in so debilitated a state as to be incapable of walking sixty yards. She had no inclination to take any food, the stomach and intestines were much distended with flatus, attended with constipation and paucity of urine, the lower extremities were dropsical, and she had symptoms of effusion of serum in the chest and abdomen. After a dose of extract of rhubarb, calomel, and ginger, she was directed to take two table spoonsful of the following mixture three times a day.

Take of the Essential Salt of the Round-leaf Cornel, 1½ drachm;
Spirit of Sal Volatile, two drachms;
Tincture of Buchu Leaves, one ounce;
Distilled Water, seven ounces.—Mix.

After taking this mixture one day she took some nourishment (chicken broth) with a relish. In the course of two days she was able to take a little solid food, and capable of walking, without fatigue, a quarter of a mile. Her general health being considerably improved, and the swelling of the lower extremities continuing, recourse was had to acupuncturation of the legs, which in a few days succeeded in reducing them to their natural size. She now gained strength rapidly, and at this time enjoys a pretty good state of health. We have met with several similar cases of debility, attended with symptoms of breaking up of the constitution, in which the round-leaf cornel has proved equally beneficial. Mr. La Beaume has also favoured us with numerous cases of local and general debility in which it fully succeeded after the Peruvian bark, and other tonic medicines, had disagreed with the stomach.

The essential salt of the round-leaf cornel, dissolved in a sound white wine, as sherry, East India madeira, or Cape madeira, in the proportion of half an ounce to a wine quart, forms a most excellent tonic wine, of which a small wine-glassful may be taken two or three times a day. This is a most valuable remedy for fluor albus, gleet, debility of the bladder and rectum, prolapsus uteri, &c. Mr. Highley, Medical Bookseller, of Fleet Street, has just published the third edition of Dr. Robinson's *Treatise on the Round-Leaf Cornel*, with Cases.

EMETIC TARTAR.

Dr. Henderson, of Washington, has stated a case of croup, in which a quarter of grain of emetic tartar, repeated after an interval of fifteen minutes, produced an alarming degree of debility, with symptoms of approaching dissolution. The doctor adds, "I once saw a child eighteen months old, die from a smaller dose of tartar emetic. About twenty years ago we met with a case of death of an infant about six months old, which was evidently occasioned by antimonial wine, under the direction of a physician who was generally considered very clever in the treatment of diseases of infants.

MEDICAL BOTANY.

A knowledge of this interesting and important science is now required not only by the College of Surgeons, the Apothecaries' Company, but by the Army and Naval Medical Boards. Our medical friends will therefore be glad to hear that the work now publishing in monthly numbers, by Dr. Stephenson and Mr. Churchill, is conducted with increasing spirit. The last number contains a figure of the ergot, or spurred rye, which, as an agent for accelerating the progress of labour, is now in high repute. The account of its chemical properties, and of its medicinal virtues, is particularly valuable; and we entertain sanguine hopes, that the ergot will be the means of rendering the use of instruments unnecessary in ordinary cases of labour from debility or diminished uterine energy. The next number will contain plates, with accompanying descriptions of the Rhamnus, Cathartucus Erythræa Centaurea, Primus Lauro-cerasus Ulmus Campestris, and Diosma Crenata; and as we were the means of introducing the last mentioned plant into medical use, we feel gratified that its virtues in the distressingly irritative affection of the bladder urethra, and rectum, are now justly appreciated by the scientific part of the profession.

CHIRAYITA HERB.

We have received the case of a clergyman residing at Clifton, who had for many years been a great sufferer from nervous indigestion, attended with the most distressing nervous headache, and high degree of excitability of the whose nervous system, in which the infusion of the Chirayita, with the carbonate of soda, had a most happy effect. He had taken nearly all the stomachic and tonic articles of the *materia medica*, in various forms, without deriving from any of them the smallest benefit. The mixture of chirayita (made by dissolving three drachms of the carbonate of soda in half a pint of the infusion) was the only medicine that agreed with his stomach and that did not disorder his head. The chirayita is clearly an excellent stomachic for indigestion *arising from morbid excitement* of the nerves of the stomach, or sluggishness of the liver, attended with general nervousness. Since we noticed the peculiar stomachic and deobstruent properties of the chirayita, some merchants in Liverpool, have collected a quantity of it, the stems and roots of which, (in which its virtues principally reside,) are so perished as to be unfit for use. The rotten condition of the stems is evident on inspection, and on mastication its bitter principles will be found to be very weak.

MINERAL WATERS.

The Seltzer, the Pyrmont, and the Sedlitz waters are now successfully prepared, at Great Malvern, with the pure Malvern water.

The Sedlitz water is laxative, being magnesia and soda, combined with the sulphuric and carbonic acids.

The Seltzer water is mildly laxative if taken before breakfast, being magnesia, soda, and lime, combined with the sulphuric, muriatic, and carbonic acids.

The Pyrmont water unites laxative with tonic qualities, being magnesia, potash, soda, and iron, combined with the sulphuric, muriatic, and carbonic acids.

This water is prepared from the Peak aperient chalybeate salt.

Mr. Addison, author of a Practical Treatise on the Malvern Water, and the advantages of a residence at Great Malvern to scrofulous and

other invalids, has opened an establishment on a large scale, not only for the artificial mineral waters, but for the native waters of Malvern. At the bottom of the east side of the hills, about a quarter of a mile from the village, there is a most excellent chalybeate spring, and in the valley there are mineral springs, which afford an aperient water.

This establishment, in our opinion, gives Malvern, on account of the salubrity of the water, a most decided superiority over Cheltenham, or any place on the sea-coast. The inhabitants of Great Malvern, and scrofulous and consumptive patients are greatly indebted to Mr. Addison, not only for his valuable Practical Treatise on the Malvern Water, but for his very useful and scientific establishment.

MEDICAL LITERATURE.

Stafford's further Observations on the use of the Lancetted Stilet, in the Cure of Obstinate Strictures of the Urethra. Stafford's Essay on Deep and Excavated Ulcers.

Mr. Stafford does not appear to be one of those individuals who, as they advance in life and practice, lose all desire for the cultivation and promotion of medical science; on the contrary, his mind seems to be occupied in prosecuting researches into the nature of several diseases, which are of common occurrence, and his labours on that account, are the more likely to be attended with benefit to mankind. He has already published a small work on Stricture of the Urethra, strongly recommendingthe use of a new instrument, which he has termed the *lancetted stilet*, by means of which the worst stricture may be divided, and thus a permanent cure be effected. Now, although we cannot think, that the efficacy of this invention is at all to be compared with that of the common bougie, when that instrument can be employed, nor yet that the lancetted stilet is free from objections and danger; still we are of opinion, that in some very bad cases of contraction of the urethra, it may, in judicious hands, be employed with advantage. Mr. S. has given numerous cases, showing the extraordinary benefits derived from it in practice; but in estimating the value of these, it ought to be recollected, without our for a moment insinuating anything against the veracity of the details, that, among the numerous works on stricture, recommending various and frequently opposite plans of treatment, they have all had the striking peculiarity of being illustrated by numerous successful cases. The copious volumes of Sir E. Home afford an example of the truth of this statement; for nearly all the severe cases of stricture related by him, yielded sooner or later in his hands to the employment of the caustic bougie; but other surgeons have experienced very different results, and the plan of the distinguished Baronet is now nearly discarded from practice, on account of the numerous cases of failure, and the many dangerous consequences which attend the use of the caustic bougie.

In the author's further observations, he has related several additional cases illustrative of the efficacy and simplicity of his method of cure. One of the most interesting of these, is the case of a general officer, affected with two strictures, who had undergone, during a period of several years, the treatment, by the bougie, by caustic, by Dr. Arnott's dilators, without the least benefit, who was subject to retention of urine, and whose health had been greatly impaired by the long continuance of his complaint; he was ultimately cured by the use of the lancetted stilet.

In Mr. Stafford's essay on deep ulcers, whether arising from scrofula, from buboes, from sloughing, or other causes, and wherever situated, he recommends the novel treatment of pouring into the cavity of the ulcer wax in a melted state, which, when it hardens, completely fills up the excavation. The composition, which consists of four parts of white wax and one of Venice turpentine, is to be poured into the ulcer at the moment when it is *setting*, that being a temperature which will not give pain. In three days it is to be removed, when the bottom of the ulcer will be found covered with healthy granulations. Mr. S. was led to conceive the propriety of this treatment from observing the process nature employs when throwing off a mortified part. The dead portion being actually pushed out by the granulations which shoot up. Inde-

pendent of exciting the growth of the granulations, the wax also acts by excluding the atmosphere, by supporting the weak vessels in the neighbourhood of the part, and by keeping up a gentle and equable pressure on the walls of the ulcerated cavity. The author details several cases of ulcers of the legs, excavations the consequences of bubo, scrofulous sores in the neck, and phagedenic ulcerations, rapidly cured by this treatment.

For this very ingenious plan we give Mr. Stafford great credit; as we think it is founded on a correct knowledge of the laws of nature in the healing of ulcers, and is likely to be of great benefit in a class of cases which commonly baffle the best directed efforts of the most experienced surgeon.

Salmon's Practical Essay on Stricture of the Rectum.

The preliminary observations of this author, in which he gives it as his opinion, that stricture of the rectum is by no means so rare a disease as has been generally supposed; that numerous other affections, acting materially on the constitutional health of the patient, such as fistula in ano, stricture of the urethra, various affections of the bladder, vagina and uterus, and of the stomach, lungs, and head, are produced by it, are, we think, borne out by analogy as well as experience.

In the treatment of stricture of the rectum, the grand point to discover is, whether or not the disease depend on a cancerous tendency, or be the result of simple inflammation and irritation. This will be best discovered by a consideration of the age and constitution of the patient, and by the site and nature of the contraction. The cancerous stricture Mr. Salmon has generally found situated within four inches of the anus, whereas in simple cases, the disease is found much higher up.

In the simple contraction of the rectum, Mr. S. recommends the employment of a wax bougie, varying in size, from one inch to three inches and a half in circumference, and about eleven inches long, softened and curved, so as to correspond with the flexures of the gut. The bougie ought not to be introduced oftener than once in the four or five days; and an opiate enema should previously be injected. Mr. S. recommends strongly the daily employment of emollient and laxative enemas; he condemns, and we are of opinion with justice, the operation of dividing the stricture. In cases of cancerous contraction of the rectum, Mr. S. protests against the employment of bougies, and states, that all the surgeon ought to do, is to soothe the transit of the unfortunate sufferer to the grave. The various positions of Mr. Salmon are supported with cases, his pathological views are well founded, and his practice is characterized by mildness, judgment and efficiency.

Mitchell on Difficult Cases of Parturition, and the Use of the Ergot of Rye.

The ergot of rye, like all new remedies, has found among its friends men whose judgment has been so warped by admiration of their favourite remedy, that they have ascribed to it qualities and powers which it does not possess, and thus, by affording good ground for the satire of its foes, have become its worst enemies. In this light must be considered the author of this little treatise, who has ridden his hobby so far, as to make him believe that this infallible drug will entirely do away with the necessity of the employment of the forceps. That the ergot of rye is a medicine of great power in exciting the action of the uterus, we are fully convinced; but we are equally certain that a great many cases occur, where it fails in producing any action in that viscus sufficient to expel the fœtus, particularly where physical difficulties have been the cause of the protracted labour. Many cases proving this are recorded by eminent obstetric practitioners; and we think that if Mr. Mitchell had paid sufficient deference to the statements of men far more worthy of attention than himself, he would never have made the sweeping, and it may be truly said, absurd assertions contained in this little volume. On the chapters dedicated to "Puerperal Convulsions," and "a general view of the Process of Labour," we shall not enter, as they contain nothing new. And in regard to Mr. M.'s statement of the disadvantages of the cæsarian operation, in comparison with that of opening the head, we have only to remark, that we agree with him in his preference of the latter; but at the same time we cannot help expressing our astonishment at the contradictory assertions which he has made in support of his opinions. At one place, he says, "and let us hear no *more of the* cæsarian operation, which I consider a disgrace *on* the profession of the

accoucheur, as scarcely an instance of recovery from it has occurred in modern times." Yet a few pages further on, with a rare consistency, he remarks, "many cases of success in uterine section are recorded"!!!

Of the great and uniform power of the ergot of rye, Mr. M. is so firmly convinced, that he thinks in twenty years, when it shall have been introduced into practice, the forceps will never be necessary. And such is his aversion to instruments, that he thinks it totally unnecessary ever to perform the cæsarian section; and that cases where that operation is at present recommended, would have a greater chance of recovery if left to nature.

In proof of this, he has recorded a curious case, where a woman at the proper period had labour pains, which failed to expel the fœtus; which, however, in the course of the next twelve months came away piecemeal.

In Mr. Mitchell's examination of the objections brought against the use of the ergot of rye, he denies in toto that it is a poisonous substance, and asserts that it is as certain in its operation as any purgative. His experience, he affirms, has always shown its action to be on the uterus; and he thinks that it operates by contracting the muscular fibre of the extremities, and thus determining the blood to that organ. Its power and effects, he states, are easily controlled by opium. Now nearly all of these positions are at variance with well-authenticated evidence already before the public.

In concluding our review of this book, we have to remark, that we think the author has monstrously overrated the power of the ergot of rye in tedious labours, to the exclusion of the forceps; and, secondly, that his work abounds with assertions contradicted by the observations and experience of many distinguished men.

Warren, on Disorders of the Head.

The first part of this work is intended to prove that however weak the patient, and empty the veins and arteries of the body generally may be, the vessels of the brain are always full: and hence the author accounts for weak and debilitated patients, such as consumptive, retaining their senses to the last. With this preliminary statement as a ground-work, he goes on to point out the inefficiency and dangerous consequences of blood-letting in many diseases of the head. In apoplexy, or as he rather unscientifically terms it, blood-stroke, the author only bleeds where there is an increasing lethargy; and for all the other symptoms which precede that state, he recommends other means.

Of the water-stroke, or sudden effusion of aqueous fluid into the head, he has said but little, but recommends the remedy of Dr. Golis, of Vienna; viz. stimulating baths. Hydrocephalus, regularly termed watery-head, he thinks generally originates in derangement of the bowels, and never employs blood-letting for its cure in these cases.

In inflammatory affections of the head, the treatment, he says, consists in removing the immediate cause, and improving the tone and condition of the patient.

This little volume, which is written in a plain popular style, containing some very judicious remarks, and the pathological view which the author has endeavoured to establish, is important and well worthy of attention; but the work is on too small a scale for the extended nature of the subject.

Letter of Dewhurst on Medical Education.

We have perused attentively this letter, and although we think that the present system of medical education in this country is defective in many points, more particularly as regards the study of anatomy, the divisions of the science, and the education of different kinds of practitioners; and also the expense of pupils attending public institutions and lectures, and the monopolies held by certain public bodies; still we cannot agree to the system recommended by Mr. Dewhurst, especially where he advises the study of Phrenology, the institution of particular lectures, as on mental diseases, on comparative anatomy, forensic medicine, and so forth, as we apprehend that the mind of the student ought to be principally directed to subjects immediately connected with the practice of the healing art.

More attention ought to be paid, however, to his literary qualifications previously to entering on the study of medicine.*

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* See an excellent paper illustrative of this point in the last number of the Medical and Physical Journal, by Dr. Gordon.

EPPS'S HORÆ PHRENOLOGICÆ.

THESE Essays are extremely beautifully and classically written, and are chiefly intended to prove that phrenology is intimately connected with religion. They treat of morality, the best means of obtaining happiness, and veneration.

The author has, we think, been very successful in his object, and holds up phrenology in a moral light, in which it has never been exhibited before. His statements ought to be well considered by those who suppose that the doctrines of Gall are subversive of religion, and tend to the establishment of Materialism.

STRATFORD'S MANUAL OF THE ANATOMY, PHYSIOLOGY, AND DISEASES OF THE EYE.

THE Editors of the "American Journal of the Medical Sciences," (the leading Medical Review of North America,) in their analysis of the "Manual of Anatomy, Physiology, and Diseases of the Eye," by Mr. Stratford, surgeon-oculist, of Worcester, (published by Longman and Co.) observe, "most of the treatises on ophthalmic surgery are limited to the consideration of a single disease, or a new operation or method of cure. Mr. Stratford has presented us with a 'Manual of the Anatomy, Physiology, and Diseases of the Eye and its Appendages.' He commences with an anatomical description of the orbits, the appendages, and of the eye-ball. He next offers a few general considerations on the diseases of the eye and its appendages; and then treats in succession of the diseases of the conjunctive tunic, the lachrymal gland and duct, the eye-lids, &c. &c. &c., and concludes with an account of the effects of injuries of the eye and its appendages, and their treatment. Most of the subjects interesting to the oculist are brought under notice. This work has the merit of being the best compendium, or manual, that has hitherto been presented to the profession. His description of the diseases is concise and accurate, his pathology correct, the treatment such as would be naturally suggested by a correct pathology, and that which has been sanctioned by the experience of the best practitioners. We congratulate the pupil on the valuable acquisition this book will be to him."—*February*, 1829.

The great attention which has been given in Europe, within the last few years, to the diseases of the eye, the Editors attribute to the pathological researches and zeal of our scientific countryman Mr. Wardrop. A lecturer on medicine, speaking of the medical literature of the present times, emphatically advised his class not to be prejudiced either against or in favour of a work by the opinions of a reviewer; for nearly in all, friendship, interest, party-spirit, ignorance, or the selfishness of the proprietor of the review, generally a bookseller, will be found to predominate, more than a regard for science. In a journal, independent of a bookseller, the review is often scientific and impartial, but even in these there is often party-prejudice. For the real merits of a work, he observed, medical authors of this country must chiefly look to the foreign journals, the Editors of which are men of great practical information, and uninfluenced by the mean spirit and selfishness which actuate the trade proprietors of reviews. In this country the reviewer receives his instructions from his employer, who, for the purpose of giving his orders for commendation or censure, looks no further than the name of the author or of the publisher. If the copyright belong to the proprietor, or if he be in any way interested in its sale, the work must, of course, be highly praised. These observations certainly do not apply to the criticisms which have appeared on Mr. Stratford's work, for all are highly complimentary to the author. The trade proprietor of a medical journal would not allow an impartial review of a medical work, written by one of its editors, to appear in his journal, because he had purchased the copyright of a work on the same subject!!!

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE KING v. VAN BUTCHELL.

IN our last Number we noticed the extraordinary commitment of Mr. Van Butchell to Newgate, on the verdict of a coroner's jury, for manslaughter. The Grand Jury found a true bill, and his trial came on at the Old Baily, on Wednesday the 17th instant, before Baron Hullock and Justice Littledale. The principal witness for the prosecution was Mr. Lloyd, a surgeon of Frederick's-place, Old Jury. This gentleman saw the patient (William Archer) on the 10th of May, (a day or two after he paid his last visit to Mr. Van Butchell), when he complained of being in great pain both in body and mind,

and "said he had received such injury in his bowels that he should die." The symptoms at that time did not lead Mr. Lloyd to "suppose that the patient was so near death." Mr. Lloyd described the appearances exhibited on dissection. The *general* appearance of the viscera of the abdomen was that of *recent* inflammation, and on examining the rectum he found "a part had been injured." This he separated and "examined *over and over again*, with a *Mr. Smith(!)* and was *fully* convinced that the injury was occasioned by *violence*. A *straight instrument six inches long* would have caused the injury." On cross examination he stated that his examination did not lead him to think that there was *general* peritoneal inflammation!! (the general appearance of the *viscera* was that of *recent* inflammation, and yet "not *general* peritoneal inflammation"!!! All the viscera of the abdomen inflamed from injury done to the rectum, and the peritoneum not generally inflamed!!!)—He said he prescribed bleeding, but he did *not* bleed him: on further recollection, he said he did bleed him!!—leeches were also applied. He bled him on Tuesday and on Wednesday, but did not know how much blood was taken!! On being examined as to the length of the rectum, he said it is *usually* about seven or eight inches, and not ten or eleven!! (sometimes twelve?) The learned gentleman talked much of the injury being done by a *straight* instrument; but he had not seen the instrument, and no evidence was produced of any such instrument, or of even force, having been employed!! The scientific gentleman completely "broke down" on cross examination by Mr. Broderick, and the manner in which he gave his evidence did not raise him in the estimation of his medical friends. Upwards of forty gentlemen, who had suffered much from disease in the lower intestines, and were effectually cured by Mr. Van Butchell, as well as several surgeons, being in court, to speak of his skilfull and judicious treatment of such diseases, it was unfortunate for the professional reputation of Mr. Van Butchell that Mr. Lloyd's evidence was so incomplete, as not to allow of their being brought forward.

It may appear strange to our medical readers, that, on such evidence, the coroner's jury should have given such a verdict; but the fact is, they and the coroner had been led to believe that Mr. Van Butchell was an ignorant quack. Mr. Van Butchell has had a regular surgical education; and although not a member of the College of Surgeons, is a regular surgeon. The charter granted by the late King to the College of Surgeons not having been confirmed by Parliament, many surgeons think it no honour to belong to the body. But it is said Mr. Van Butchell is an advertiser, and, therefore, not a *regular* practitioner!! Are not Dr. Wilson Philip, Dr. Paris, Dr. Uwins, and others, who style themselves *regular* physicians, advertisers? If Dr. Philip expend two hundred pounds in advertising his work on Indigestion more than the sale of the work produces, surely it is a fair inference that he is indirectly advertising for patients. Can Mr. Lloyd, or any of his friends, point out a physician or surgeon in full practice in this metropolis, who succeeded without the puff direct or indirect? or, in fact, by means amounting to "advertising?" Of all the leading medical men of London, are there five whose practical knowledge and scientific attainments entitle them to the confidence the public place in them? As to humbug, no class of the profession is more free from it than the general practitioners; and with regard to science and practical knowledge, this class is more entitled to the implicit confidence of invalids than any other. With regard to the professional qualifications of Mr. Van Butchell, we firmly believe no surgeon in this country has been more successful in the treatment of diseases of the rectum, or less rash in the employment of mechanical means; and, in our opinion, it is a disgrace to the Legislature of the country, that the professional character of a regular surgeon should be so infamously, if not wantonly, assailed with impunity, or should so vitally suffer from the ignorance of a coroner.

A surgeon of gentlemanly feelings, we should have supposed, would have invited Mr. Van Butchell, or one of his medical friends, to attend the *post-mortem* examination of the slaughtered man! Who is Mr. Smith? A *liberal* and scientific fellow no doubt.

DISSECTION.

A THOROUGH knowledge of the mechanism of the *human* body is so necessary to form a practitioner, that by a late act of the Legislature, every apothecary is required to attend a certain number of courses of lectures on anatomy, and to pass an examination in anatomy and physiology before he

can legally enter on practice. There is also an Act of Parliament which subjects those to transportation who are detected in robbing a grave. If the Legislature requires every practitioner to be acquainted with anatomy, it surely behoves them to afford the means of procuring dead bodies for demonstration and dissection. The means suggested by Mr. Warburton for supplying lecturers with dead bodies, as corrected by the House of Commons, appeared to us unobjectionable, and had not the minds of the lower classes of society been prejudiced against it, it would probably have been sanctioned by the House of Lords and his Majesty.

We were much amused by the *philosophical* objections made to the Bill by some noble Lords, and particularly by a few Bishops. To disturb the silent grave, in their minds, is a crime of the greatest magnitude. God help us! what is the defunct body of man that even Bishops should be so mindful of it? Man is a compound of matter and spirit, "there is the terrestrial body and the celestial body." When the vital principle quits the terrestrial body, or when the connexion between the terrestrial and celestial bodies is dissolved, the former cannot retain its organization many hours; decomposition, according to a wise order of nature, takes place to mingle with its mother earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Whether the defunct body be conveyed to the grave or to a family vault, in a leaden or a wooden coffin, it must undergo the changes to which the laws of nature have destined it; surely, then, to a person who is convinced of this fact, and none but a fool can doubt it, it must be a matter of total indifference whether it be deposited in an entire or in a divided state. The philosopher who considers this world as a mere vestibule to a better world, and as a state of probation, cares not a rush what becomes of his *mortal* part, (which he knows is mere organized matter derived from the earth,) so that his *immortal* part may be favourably received by his Creator, when dissolution takes place. Indeed, a person of a benevolent disposition, who firmly believes in a future state, and expects to hear that blessing pronounced, "Come, ye blessed children of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world," one would suppose, would cheerfully dispose of his *terrestrial* body for the benefit of man.

The sailor has no dread of the "watery grave," although he knows that his body will soon be minutely divided by the teeth of fish, nor do his relatives or friends feel more on receiving the intelligence of his death on this account. The sailor, in fact, makes no distinction between the earthy and the watery grave; and where is the difference between the dissection of a body by the teeth of the fish and the knife of the surgeon? Even in the most enlightened countries, it is a common practice to embalm the bodies of monarchs immediately after death: and although dissection is confined to the chest and abdomen, the difference between it and dissection by a teacher is very trifling. In some countries it is a common practice to hasten the decomposition of dead bodies, by burning them: and surely this mode of disposing of dead bodies is not more terrific than that of dissection; and yet no prejudice exists in the minds of the natives to it.

The Turkish soldiers care not what becomes of their bodies when killed in battle, because they are led to believe their immortal parts immediately enter the regions of bliss. We would ask the Bishops who opposed the bill, if they suppose that dissection of the "terrestrial body" can in any way affect the soul? Job says, "though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." Now dissection of a body only prepares it for worms, by accelerating its dissolution. As to ourselves, we care not whether our bodies be consigned to the grave entire or in a thousand pieces,

or whether it be decomposed in one day or in twenty years. We are firmly satisfied that death takes place in consequence of the soul quitting the body, and that the body is a mere earthly tenement, or machine, to keep up its connexion with the physical world; and we really cannot help thinking, that those who are so anxious about their bodies after dissolution, are not firm believers in a future state, or in Christianity, although they may be Bishops; and yet, if there be not a future state, where is the difference between the body of a man and that of a dog?

If the Pope were to instruct his priests to preach the doctrine, that the souls of those who disposed of their bodies for dissection, for the benefit of man, would enter the kingdom of heaven without being detained in purgatory, dead bodies would soon be as cheap and plentiful in this country as they are in Paris, where a complete body may be procured, with facility, for five shillings. His Holiness is no doubt aware, that "flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven."

In a late Number, we proposed that the bodies of all executed criminals, and of suicides, should be delivered up for dissection; and to such a law, we think, no reasonable objection could be made. Public executions are so frequent in this country, that they have lost their intended effect, in deterring the depraved from the commission of crimes. If the bodies of the executed were subjected to dissection, the punishment would be more terrific; and the dissection of the bodies of suicides would powerfully tend to deter even demi-maniacs from the commission of the enormous crime of self-murder.

FRAUDULENT PRACTICES EXPOSED. *(Continued from page 560.) If a person purchases a fish, in some celebrated markets, and leaves it to the fishmonger to send it home, it is a thousand to one if the fish be not changed, and the purchaser, not seeing it till it appears on the table cooked, is not able to say whether it is the same or not, although he is satisfied it is not so fresh as he imagined it to have been when he agreed for it; but if he should order one to be sent to a friend in the country, he may depend on its having been changed. An attempt was once made by a fishmonger to change a fish under my own eye. Having had good reasons to suppose that he had often practised a fraud on me, by not sending the fish I had purchased, I determined to see the boy sent off with the one for which I had bargained (a fine cod). The fishmonger speedily removed the gills and entrails, and then plunged it into a large tub of water under the window-board, and after apparently washing it, he pulled out a fish about the same size, and put it into a basket for the purpose of sending it off. Observing that it had not a mark on the head which I had noticed, I told him that it was not the same fish. The fishmonger however declared it must be the same fish, *because* I saw him take it off the shew-board. I however took the liberty to put my stick into the tub, by which I discovered the marked fish!! The fishmonger, not a little confused, put it into the basket and sent it off. This fish I and my family found unusually firm and fresh. I advise, therefore, those who wish to have *fresh* fish, to employ a servant to take it home, without passing through the ceremony of immersion or washing. This caution is not necessary with all fishmongers. There is one, living in Swallow Passage, Oxford Street (Boilett), whom I firmly believe to be incapable of practising fraud. He is a plain John Bull kind of a man—puts a fair price on his fish (generally lower than his neighbours), from which he will not deviate, even to please an old regular customer. From him I never had a bad fish of any kind.

As he has more business than he can well manage, he does not require this publicity, and I mention the fact only to induce other fishmongers to follow his example.

If this letter should appear in your valuable work, you may expect some further exposures of frauds from, Sir, your constant reader and friend,

London, January 6, 1829. JAMES ARNOT.

GENERAL REMARKS ON SPIRITS.

(BY DR. ROBINSON.)

THE effects of the different spirits I have briefly noticed on the human body are those which are generally produced by taking such a quantity as is taken by the prudent man, to exhilarate and not intoxicate. A spirit when taken as a beverage should always be diluted

with water. The addition of sugar tends to blunt its acrimony, and thereby prevent its acting injuriously on the mucous membrane of the stomach; and the practice which some adopt of adding a little gum arabic, doubtless renders it still less pernicious. Some sweeten brandy and water with barley sugar, which is perhaps better than common white sugar, and renders the addition of gum arabic unnecessary. Spirit undiluted should be taken only as a medicine, when the stomach requires to be stimulated to enable it to digest its solid contents, and expel gas, or in cases of spasms in any part of the alimentary canal. All spirits are rendered more wholesome by the addition of a mild aromatic, and hence the practice of grating a little nutmeg into brandy and water is a good one. For elderly or weakly people, brandy diluted with water is, in my opinion, preferable to any wine. If water or very weak brandy and water be taken cold during dinner, a little warm brandy and water, with barley sugar and nutmeg, taken about three quarters of an hour after dinner, will greatly promote digestion. A mixture of spirit and water taken cold is less likely to injure the stomach than when taken warm; but in making a choice, a person must be guided by habits and peculiarities of stomach, &c. I shall now proceed, by way of impressing what I consider the principal points of the foregoing remarks respecting diet, on the mind of my readers, to specify the articles which a person advanced in age, or whose vital energies have been reduced by abuses of any kind, or whose constitution is naturally weak, should adopt for each meal, leaving him or her to make such alterations as habit, temperament, or peculiarity may indicate. In general, three meals a-day are as many as the stomach can properly digest, and certainly afford as much nourishment as the body requires. Some writers recommend a little and often, and if a debilitated subject finds this practice to agree better with him than going six hours without any refreshment, he will do right to adopt it; generally speaking, I have found three meals a-day to agree best. *(To be continued.)*

QUACKERY.

MR. JOHN ST. JOHN LONG.—A young lady, subject to cough, came to London, to place herself under the care of this pretended curer of consumption of the lungs, under the impression that he was an *eminent* physician. The patient attended regularly, and agreed, by a solemn promise, not to reveal his mode of treatment. The humane and liberal-minded John St. John Long felt so much interested in her case, that he, good soul, agreed to receive her on a Sunday; and such was his desire to be accommodating, that he even condescended to take the fee on the sabbath day. The young lady attended regularly every day, according to directions, and every time met patients with a peculiarly forced cough, producing a *humming* sound. She termed it the *hum* cough!! She soon discovered the "tricks they were playing," and accordingly returned home with a peculiar *hum* laugh.

A medical gentleman informs us, that, the day before Mr. Silvester placed himself under Mr. John St. John Long's care, he consulted Dr. Kerrison; and that the Doctor's opinion agreed with his own, that he was *not* consumptive. He had had one acute affection of the lungs, which gave way to an antiphlogistic treatment, and he was in a rapid state of convalescence. Mr. John St. John Long condemned all that had been done for him, and ordered him to adopt a generous diet, (meat three times a-day with ale!!!) The consequence was, the affection of the lungs became inflammatory, and under such treatment proved fatal. So much for the "*cure* of pulmonary consumption *by* external friction and a generous diet," by Mr. John St. John Long!!!

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

L. XIV.] To AUGUST 1, 1829. [No. 164.

MEDICAL OBITUARY.

" De Mortuis nil nisi Verum."

SIR HUMPHRY DAVY, BART. &c. &c.

HE death of an eminent philosopher, and successful cultivator of science, ertainly one of the greatest losses the world can suffer; for this noble s of men enjoy the rare felicity of conferring on their species inestimable es of knowledge and happiness, without ever being under the necessity of cting a single pang of woe. What warrior can contemplate the strewed l of battle, without shuddering at the expense at which his laurels have n gathered? What statesman ever proposed a measure for the benefit is country, which did not entail ruin on many of his fellow-citizens? philosopher and man of science alone enjoy the singular satisfaction, moment they have established a discovery, of enriching the knowledge, viating the misery, and extending the happiness of the human race, to ncalculable extent, without its being in the power of any individual to a reflection on their noble work.

Of all the eminent Philosophers who have adorned the page of history, e ever passed to the silent tomb with greater claims on the gratitude of , than Sir Humphry Davy, whose numerous, brilliant, and splendidly ful discoveries in chemical philosophy, have enriched and extended science to a vast degree; whose name is as well known and respected very country of the civilized world, as it is in his own native land, over ch it has shed so grateful a lustre, and the memory of whose genius and ks will be preserved in the minds of men, so long as knowledge and ue shall endure.

ir Humphry Davy was one of those rare individuals whose talents bled him to surmount the difficulties inseparable from an obscure h, and defective preliminary education. These obstacles, however, n once mastered, may be considered rather to have been advantages; the independent feeling of the man of genius, that he is indebted rely to his own exertions for his present elevation, is the greatest ulus to a farther advancement; and hence it happens, that the ultimate ion of the man of talents never bears a proportion to the humbleness is origin. In the paths of science, like those of religion, the rule of e that is last shall be first," is generally found to obtain.

ir Humphry was a native of Penzance. His preliminary education was tly defective, and he never obtained, in subsequent life, a knowledge of classics. If, however, he did not enjoy the benefits of a classical cation, at least he escaped its numerous defects; for that part of his which would have been devoted to the useless and hurtful drudgery of ning Greek and Latin, was employed in more practically useful lessons. ardour and success with which he entered, at a very early period of life, the study and cultivation of an abstruse science, is a strong argument inst the present system of education, where the years of boyhood are nt in acquiring, by rote, classical knowledge, at the expense both of the lth of the mind and body, only to be thrown away and forgotten as manhood

advances, instead of being employed in obtaining a knowledge of the European languages, and of the more simple and elementary sciences.*

The late Dr. Beddoes, himself an accomplished philosopher, has the honour to have discovered the talents of the youthful Davy, and to his generous patronage the world is in a great measure indebted for the unfolding of a genius which has since been so much admired.

"Slow rises merit, by poverty depressed."

Under the auspices of this accomplished and generous-minded man, Mr. Davy came to London, where, buried in the heart of the mighty metropolis, he pursued his studies with a degree of ardour seldom witnessed. At this period of his life, the writer of this article had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with him, at a small society composed of Dr. Babington, Mr. Richard Knight, Mr. Pepys, and the then unknown philosopher, established by these enthusiastic individuals for the cultivation of chemical science. This small society of kindred men held its sittings in the city, and the members were in the habit of cooking their own beef-steaks and potatoes, in order, that even that necessary operation might be conducted on strictly chemical principles.

At this society, it is said, Mr. Pepys, since so well known in the chemical world, first discovered the decomposition of the alkali by means of the galvanic fluid, but the research was prosecuted by Davy, and how well he has performed his task, the world has not now to learn. Through the kindness of Dr. Beddoes, Davy was introduced to Mr. Davies Gilbert, and Count Rumford; and by their influence he was appointed Lecturer on Chemistry at the Royal Institution; and soon after, by the promulgation of his discoveries in reference to the composition of the alkali, and the publication of his truly philosophical papers in the Transactions of the Royal Society, his reputation rose to a height, which no man in his department of science ever before attained; and honours and emoluments flowed rapidly on the brilliant discoverer.

Of the estimation in which his genius was held, nothing affords a more striking example, than his election as a member of the Institute of Paris, the most scientific body in Europe, at a period when England and France were inflamed against each other by an aggravated war; and when the national animosity and prejudice had reached such an extent, that the inhabitants of the two countries scarcely looked on each other in the light of human beings.

The invention of the safety lamp, due not to accident, but to the calm deliberation of a strong inductive mind, may be considered as one of his most useful discoveries. In consequence of its introduction into use, the great saving of human life and happiness which it has effected, does not require to be told. The improvements introduced by Davy in the coppering of vessels have also been highly beneficial to his country. In short, whether man penetrate into the bowels of the earth, live on the surface of the waters, or ascend into the regions of the clouds, there the kindly genius of Davy pursues and guards him.

Among the many pleasures Davy reaped from his reputation, none could have been more gratifying to him, than the love and esteem of Mrs. Apreece, which it procured for him. That amiable lady soon bestowed her hand and large fortune on the Philosopher: and although circumstances

* There is an Institution at Hampstead conducted on these principles. The best proof of the efficacy of the system, is the appearance and attainments of the boys, and the fact of their never being desirous for other amusement than what their studies *afford.*

occurred to interrupt somewhat their mutual happiness, still we have reason to know, that she retained a respect and admiration of her husband to the last. Her feeling attentions to him on his death-bed, mark how little, notwithstanding the numerous reports to the contrary, her affection was diminished by the progress of time.

The favourite amusement of Sir Humphry in his leisure hours was fly-fishing, which he pursued with extraordinary avidity. It is said, that his mind during these times increased in vigour, and that when apparently engaged in a trifling amusement, it was really occupied in reflection on those abstruse subjects, which it afterwards elucidated in so perfect a manner. Sir Humphry published a small work entitled *Hours of Fly-fishing*. He was also remarkably fond of field sports, and during the last winter of his life, spent at Rome, he seldom omitted a day without enjoying his favourite recreation. It is amusing to contemplate the different pursuits which men of genius follow, with the view of relaxing and strengthening their mind. Certain it is, that the strongest mind, like the body, requires repose and nourishment.

But alas! the most exalted men must share the common fate of mortality. Sir Humphry's great mental exertions induced a determination of blood to the head, and his method of diet and regimen did not tend to ameliorate his condition. He became attacked by a paralytic stroke.

During last winter he travelled to Italy, for the benefit of his health. At Rome he was an object of great interest to all the men of science in that celebrated capital, and to his countrymen, who paid him every honour. But the nature of his illness did not fit him for mingling in the polished society of modern Rome. He was attacked during his residence by a second paralytic stroke. His brother, Dr. Davy, and his amiable lady, hastened to his assistance. He improved somewhat in health, and was enabled to reach Geneva in the beginning of May, where, however, in his fiftieth year, his disease at length terminated his existence.

Thus has finished the career of the greatest chemical philosopher who has ever appeared, and certainly one of the greatest benefactors of the human race. In closing this little memoir, it would be superfluous to attempt to pass a panegyric on one so universally known and revered. We therefore have "left him alone with his glory."

THE LATE DR. DUNCAN,

Professor of the Theory of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, Physician to the King, for Scotland, &c. &c. &c.

This justly esteemed and celebrated individual has terminated a life not less remarkable for its great length, than for the numerous benefits it has conferred on the science of medicine, and on the city and medical school of Edinburgh.

Dr. Duncan was a native of "Modern Athens," where his literary education was conducted; and where, after obtaining his degree of medicine, he settled in practice. He was shortly after elected Professor in the university, and when the writer of this article attended his lectures, he was conducting his fifty-second course. Besides his lectures in the university, he gave the clinical course in the Royal Infirmary. He was the first who established a dispensary in the Scotch metropolis, and he introduced great improvements into the Lunatic Institution. He also was the founder of the Horticultural Society of his native city; and indeed was the patron and benefactor of all public charities. His medical talents may well be believed not to have been small, when it is told, that he was the rival in practice, and by no means an unsuccessful one, of the illustrious Cullen, of the Monros, and of Gregory.

The principal monument which he has left behind him is his work on consumption. He has been the introducer into practice of several useful medicines, and in particular the extract of lettuce. He established the *Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, which, to this day, is the best quarterly medical journal in Great Britain. In private life, Dr. Duncan was eminently distinguished for his sociality, and the desire to benefit all mankind. He was a member of several social clubs, and spent many an hour at one established for playing a Scottish game called *golf*, to which he was peculiarly attached, and which he has eulogized in more than one poem which have been published. His favourite amusement was gardening. He possessed a garden in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, which he cultivated entirely with his own hands, and on the door of which was placed, in conspicuous letters, "*hinc salus.*" He was particularly kind to the students attending his lectures, and gave a tea-drinking every Sunday evening to about a dozen of them, by rotation, who assembled at six o'clock and went away at eight.

When old, he used sometimes to forget the lapse of time, and in his lectures, frequently spoke about the *late* Mr. Haller, who lived a century before.

To the last year of his life he never omitted going up, on the morning of the first of May, to wash his face in the dew of the summit of a mountain near Edinburgh, called Arthur's Seat; and generally penned a poem on the occasion. At the period of his death he was about eighty-five years of age. It ought not to be forgotten, that he had the merit of being the father of the present Dr. Duncan, the celebrated author of the Edinburgh Dispensatory, and other works.

Dr. Duncan's funeral was properly made a public one, at which the professors, magistrates, and medical bodies of Edinburgh attended, to testify their sorrow and respect.

Thus dropt, laden with years and honours, into the grave, a man not less remarkable for a successful practice, cultivation and improvement of the healing art, than for a life of philanthropy, spent in benefiting the medical school and the inhabitants of his native city.

THE LATE MR. WALKER,

Surgeon of Oxford,

was a man of very considerable talents, and of great knowledge in his profession. He was an excellent anatomist, and was demonstrator of that science to Sir Christopher Legge, Professor of Anatomy at Oxford. He was also domestic surgeon and apothecary to the hospital there, and indeed it may be almost said physician, for he generally officiated for the physicians of the Institution. Sir Christopher Legge had a very high opinion, and indeed stood somewhat in awe of the subject of this little notice.

As a practitioner in private life, Mr. Walker was justly esteemed. In his hours of leisure, he applied himself with great ardour and delight to the study of metaphysics, and he became probably one of the best metaphysicians of his day.

Possessing so solid and useful acquirements, it is needless to add that his loss has occasioned much regret and sorrow. To our readers he was well known by the numerous articles which appeared in our pages from his pen. His belief in a future state, and his desire to penetrate into it, was so great that he rejoiced when his end approached, the horrors of death, which all must feel more or less, vanishing before the pleasures of immortality. He fell a sacrifice to that variety of pulmonary consumption called *phthisis senilis*, or the consumption of age.

DR. GEORGE PEARSON.

In addition to the sketch we gave of this individual in a preceding number, we have only a few particulars to add. Of his opinions in regard to "the fellows" of his college, of which he was only a licentiate, it is difficult to form an idea; for he was of that *flexible* character, that to their faces he uttered nothing but praises, and behind their backs only abuse. We believe, however, that in his heart he had a supreme contempt for this monopolizing junto. He was employed by them to analyse a quack medicine, James's powder; and no transaction can hold up "the fellows" in a more contemptible light. James's powder, a quack medicine, was introduced into practice by Dr. James, who obtained a patent for it, a fellow of that college whose charter was granted for the suppression of quackery; and so lamentably ignorant were "the fellows," that not one of their body was equal to the analysis of this once celebrated medicine!! They were therefore under the necessity of employing a licentiate, one of that class whom they have stigmatized as possessing an inferior education to themselves!! Established to suppress quackery, they encouraged it, by retaining the vender of a quack medicine a member of their body; and, pretending to a superior education, they were unable to produce a single "fellow" capable of carrying on a simple chemical analysis. No wonder they have fallen into contempt.

The Antimonial powder of the Pharmacopœia, the substitute for James's powder, is the resuk of Dr. Pearson's analysis. Dr. Pearson was remarkable for his love of fees, and it is confidently stated that he never was known to refuse one in his life. A curious specimen of his love of money came to our own notice: we recommended a clerk of the post-office, who was in rather straitened circumstances, to consult the Doctor; the gentleman, by mistake, gave him a two-pound instead of a one-pound note; on discovering his error he naturally, in consideration of his large family, wished to have the superfluous portion returned. We applied to the Doctor on his behalf, stating the circumstances, when that learned fee-grasper returned for answer, that he did not doubt the gentleman's word, and that he would take care that he should not be a loser by the transaction, for he should have his next consultation without a fee! Dr. Pearson was also remarkable for his knowledge of the Greek language; and sitting up, drinking from the inexhaustible source of the classics, seems to have induced his rather sudden demise. Of this useless knowledge he was particularly vain, and he took extraordinary pains to render his thesis as classical as possible. In after life, it was a favourite boast of his, that his thesis, written in Greek, was the best ever presented to the College of Physicians of London, which might very well be, considering "the fellows" who generally write them.

Dr. Pearson entered largely into speculations connected with the building of Waterloo Bridge, by which he lost no less a sum than 8,000*l.* His death cannot be considered a public loss.

DR. LUKE.

The death of this lamented individual cannot he allowed to pass by without a few comments on his career. Unlike most of the members of the College of Physicians, he was not less well acquainted with the practice of surgery than of medicine. He was a native of Cornwall, and originally educated for a surgeon; he afterwards, however, graduated, and settled as physician at Falmouth, where he enjoyed an extensive practice; he subsequently removed to Devonshire, and ultimately settled in the great mart for medical men, the metropolis.

Dr. Luke was, generally speaking, a good practical physician, though too much attached to the theory of Broussais and Armstrong, considering chronic

inflammation of the mucous membrane of the stomach and bowels to be present in many diseases, and applying quantities of leeches to the belly for its cure. We have known many bad consequences, death itself not excepted, follow this sweeping and entirely erroneous practice. It is truly absurd to find how men follow particular doctrines, and yet no two diseases are alike, and indeed hardly in two cases of the same complaint do physicians follow a similar course. In the various relations of public and private life, Dr. Luke was an esteemed and honourable man.

THE LATE MR. HEAVISIDE,

Surgeon,

enjoyed for a long time a large share of the public confidence; though not a man of science, he was a sound practical surgeon, and as he had gone through, in early life, all the drudgery connected with surgery, he was ignorant of no part of its details. As an operator he ranked deservedly high, and several of his operations and of his methods of treating disease have been retained in the practice of the present moment. In public, he was a most independent character; and he opposed, with great justice, the monopolyzing system on which St. Bartholomew's Hospital has been so long conducted; a system which will be found to pervade every hospital in London, and one which has not been less detrimental to science than to the public at large.

Mr. Heaviside contrived to collect an extensive museum, which was fitted up in a very costly and splendid manner. He used to be particularly happy in showing it, at his conversazioni, and descanted often on its merits. The manners of Mr. Heaviside were extremely courteous, and to his knowledge of the "*savoir faire*" he was greatly indebted for attaining the station which he held.

DR. YOUNG,

Fellow of the College of Physicians and Physician to the Middlesex Hospital,

was a native of London, where his early education was conducted. He applied himself with remarkable zeal to the acquirement of general science, and he made great progress, more particularly in the study of moral philosophy. He was then sent to Cambridge, where he nominally studied medicine, (nominally, we say, because no school of medicine can be said to exist at the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge). With such an education, it could hardly be expected that Dr. Young would become a good practical physician; and indeed throughout life he was greatly deficient in that particular. Moral philosophy was his favourite pursuit; and in consequence of his proficiency in that branch of knowledge, he was appointed lecturer on it at the Royal Institution, and he published many papers on this subject. One of the best of these was that in which he gives a new theory of light and colours. As a proof of the estimation in which he was held for his general acquirements, may be cited his election as a foreign secretary to the Royal Society. Such a mind as his, had it been properly directed in the acquirement of medical knowledge, and freed from the injurious course prescribed by the London College of Physicians, must soon have brought him to great eminence as a practical physician, both with the profession and the public; but, impeded by these overwhelming disadvantages, it is only wonderful that he was able to bring himself into any notice at all. In private life Dr. Young was deservedly much esteemed.

Owing to the circumstance of his work being nearly unknown in medical literature, we had almost forgotten to mention that he published a Treatise on Consumption, which, like his brother Bree's volume on Asthma, does not *contain a hint of* any practical importance.

DR. ASH,
Fellow of the College of Physicians of London,

was a native of Birmingham, and was educated under the auspices of his uncle, an eminent physician in that great manufacturing city. That he might become "a fellow," he kept his terms at Oxford, but, in order to have a knowledge of medicine, he studied at Edinburgh. He afterwards travelled on the continent, married a lady of fortune, and then settled in the metropolis, where, however, he never rose to the first eminence, although his practice, at one time, was respectable. He was principally noted for a knowledge of literature, which, however ornamental to himself, could be of little practical utility to his fellow-beings. He is said to have had the principal share in writing many of the *bulletins* of his College; but, considering the great deficiency of the members of that body in talent and knowledge, this can hardly be esteemed an honour to him.

MEDICAL LITERATURE.

DR. GOOCH, ON SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DISEASES PECULIAR TO WOMEN.

The art of midwifery has always been esteemed in proportion as the civilization of a country has advanced; and hence it is but fair to conclude that an experience of its benefits is the cause of that estimation. In the metropolis of this mighty empire, men of the highest endowment and talent do not hesitate to practise and cultivate an art which the vulgar have sometimes stigmatized as beneath the dignity of man. Works on this branch of medicine are daily emanating from the press; yet few of them can be pointed out which do not contain some information.

The author of the present volume, Dr. Gooch, the successor of Sir William Knighton, has for many years enjoyed a high reputation for his practical and literary acquirements. The result of his labours he now communicates to the public in the shape of essays on some of the most important diseases peculiar to women. Puerperal fever, or, as he styles it, peritoneal fever, appears to have engaged his greatest attention; and we are happy that that has been the case, as this is a disease, on the nature and treatment of which great diversity of opinion has existed, and as it is one of the most fatal disorders which attack the parturient female.

The author has been enabled to prove that there are two species of fever, diametrically opposite in their nature, whose symptoms, however, resemble each other so closely, that they can be distinguished with the greatest difficulty. In one there is present an acute inflammation of the lining membrane of the bowels, in the other no inflammation, although there be present pain of the belly. The first is cured by bleeding, and other evacuants, and rendered worse by opiates and medicines of a similar nature. The second is cured by the stimulating plan, and generally rendered fatal by evacuants. This paper satisfactorily explains the discrepancy in the statements of Armstrong and Hey on the one hand, and Denman, Hamilton, &c. on the other. The grand point therefore to settle is, how to distinguish them, in order to apply a successful method of treatment, and this can only be done by an attention to the nature of the epidemic prevailing, and a general consideration of the symptoms preceding. Dr. Gooch with justice urges the necessity of using the remedies, whatever they may be, at the very onset of the disease, otherwise they are too often of little avail.

The author has also devoted a portion of his book to a consideration of

the symptoms of pregnancy, puerperal mania, convulsions of children, and other subjects; and has given an account of a new disease, which he has termed the irritable uterus, where pain and irritation of that organ exist, without tending to inflammation. This intractable complaint the author has frequently encountered, and found it yield soonest to opium, fomentations, hip bath, and henbane. With these papers the author has mixed up "thoughts on insanity, as an object of moral science," a discussion on the contagiousness of the plague, and other irrelevant matter, which appear to us to be highly out of place, and bear the aspect of being inserted there merely for the ignoble purpose of filling up room. The book is, on the whole, hardly worth the money charged for it.

HIGGINBOTTOM'S ESSAY ON THE USE OF THE NITRATE OF SILVER *(common caustic)*.

It is the fashion of the present day, and by no means a commmenable one, to find out that old tried means are exactly the opposite in their nature to what experience has hitherto always proved them to be: thus Mr. Higginbottom has discovered that nitrate of silver (common caustic) is not a caustic; and he has written the present volume to prove that point, and also the great use the remedy may be applied to, as a sedative. But we apprehend no man who ever applied the nitrate of silver to his own skin would allow that it is not a caustic: and if a cautic be a substance that destroys living textures, then unquestionably it is one, since it effects that purpose most valiantly. It is a sedative solely by destroying the surface to which it is applied, and with it of course its irritability, as it destroys its life. Dr. James Johnson has carried the notion of its being a sedative much further than Mr. Higginbottom, for he actually prescribes it internally for one of his forms of dyspepsia, which, by the by, exists only in his fertile brain, to allay, as he says, irritability!! Whether he has been able to get any body to take it, we have not been able to hear: all we can say is, that we would not recommend it. Mr. Higginbottom treats simple inflammation, whitlow, rose, and inflammation of the absorbents, by rubbing the skin with the caustic. Of this practice we can only observe, that it is quite contrary to the principles of surgery. To treat inflammation (we speak generally) by exciting it, is not more absurd than to attempt to extinguish a fire by adding fuel to the flames.

In erysipelas it is possible it may be of service, as that is an inflammation of a peculiar kind, in the same way as a blister applied to the diseased surface is frequently of benefit. The latter practice we have often seen adopted by that celebrated surgeon Dupuytren, at the Hôtel-Dieu, of Paris, with advantage. In deep-seated inflammations, as of the ligaments, cartilages, or covering of the bones, on the common principle of a blister, it may possess efficacy, by deriving the inflammation from deep-seated parts to the surface.

Mr. Higginbottom employs the caustic also in cases of lacerated, contused, punctured, and gunshot wounds. Now we apprehend that this was nearly the practice during the barbarous ages, and for exposing which Ambrose Parè reaped so many honours. The surgeons of those days used to pour into the wounds hot turpentine, caustic acids, and substances of a similar nature: and our author introduces the lunar caustic. The practice is entirely contrary to the principles of surgery and to the views and experience of every man of common sense.

In cases of ulceration, Mr. Higginbottom recommends the application of the caustic, and here we are happy to say that we think the practice good. *But then* how does the caustic act? Why, simply, by destroying the old *surface, and* replacing it by a new and healthy one. It may be also as

Mr. H. observes, by forming an eschar or scab, and thus imitating the process of nature. Of Mr. Higginbottom's views, we have formed no very favourable opinion; and in stating our honest sentiments with regard to them, we hope our motives will be duly appreciated by our readers. We give Mr. Higginbottom due honour for his desire to benefit science, and for his boldness in advancing his truly original opinions; but the latter we think are wholly untenable.

OBSTRUCTIONS TO MEDICAL PRACTICE BY THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

A medical gentleman, residing within seven miles of London, lately submitted to counsel a letter, accompanied with a few questions. This letter, had the opinion proved favourable, would have been *officially* laid before the Fellows of the College of Physicians, to rouse them to another contest, not for the sake of vexatious litigation, but to examine the by-laws, and, if possible, remove the just dissatisfaction which they have produced among physicians.

Having furnished us with a copy of both, and also with the legal opinion of the barrister applied to, we lose no time in placing them before our readers. We need not add how much our correspondent is mortified at not being able to expose the by-laws, nor how sincerely we sympathize with him at the unexpected result. He (for we have in confidence perused the original documents, with the physician's name inserted at full length,) only withholds it, because counsel informed him, that in case of an action being instituted against him for fines, the disclosure would operate to his prejudice in court.

The struggle between English and foreign graduates in courts of law, as far as the latter are concerned, may now be considered at an end. It is in vain for them, after Dr. Harrison's trial, coupled with Mr. Armstrong's professional opinion, to seek for redress before the ordinary tribunals, guarded and surrounded as the Fellows are with protecting technicalities and unassailable fortifications.

Were it possible by any management to bring the by-laws under discussion in open court, the Fellows would assuredly break down, because their regulations are both at variance with the honest interpretation of the charter, and the sacred provisions of the union with Scotland.

It is truly unfortunate, as we now find, after a laborious investigation and formal trial, that those monstrous absurdities, the by-laws, cannot in any way be subjected to legal scrutiny; otherwise we know, on the best authority, that they would have been amply exposed in Dr. Harrison's trial. Its leading object was to hold up the by-laws, such as they really are, to the public gaze. If his exertions were defeated, the fault is certainly not with him, seeing that he could not perform impossibilities.

Three and only three trials have taken place since these unpopular by-laws were first formed; and having all failed, through legal subtilties alone, it has at length become evident that, unless the licentiates and independents can be induced to forego their petty jealousies and disgraceful coquetry for the fellowship, and cordially unite together for their common benefit, nothing of good will be achieved; and until they can be induced to act in concert, so as to bring their cause fairly before Parliament, either by petition or otherwise, any new struggle, however modified, would be altogether hopeless.

The following is a copy of the letter submitted to counsel, and intended to be afterwards laid before the college:—

"*To the President and College or Commonalty of the Faculty of Physic in London.*

"GENTLEMEN,—It having been ascertained beyond a doubt, in your late trial with Dr. Harrison,* that your whole authority is derived from the charter, 14 and 15 of Henry VIII., I, a Medical Graduate of the University of Edinburgh, now apply to you for admission into your College or Commonalty, according to the terms of that charter.

"I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

"Your very obedient humble Servant, A. B."

Along with the foregoing letter, the annexed questions were submitted to counsel:—

"If, after the receipt of the accompanying letter, the Fellows should proceed to trial for the recovery of penalties, will they not be called upon, 1*st*, to show that the by-laws, which now exclude medical graduates from the College or Commonalty, are, according to the Act and Charter of Henry VIII., wholesome by-laws, i.e. *pro salubri gubernatione, supervisu, et correctione collegii?*

"*2dly*, If the Fellows be not under the necessity of proving and defending the wholesomeness of their by-laws, in such an action, would not a jury be more favourably disposed towards any defendant, who shall have used his best endeavours to gain admission according to the charter?

"*3dly*, Should the letter be so expressed as not to embrace all the intended objects, by what alterations and emendations can it be so worded as to oblige the Fellows of the College either to comply with its provisions or not to dare afterwards to molest the writer in his practice?"

The counsel, Robert B. Armstrong, Esq., gave the subjoined opinion upon the letter and queries:—

"I am decidedly of opinion that the 4th article of the treaty of union between England and Scotland can in no way be made use of by Dr.——, as an answer to an action by the College for penalties for practising medicine without a license, within the interdicted limits, however strong an argument *ad verecundiam* that article may afford against the continuance of the obnoxious by-law. In actions for penalties, the College are not bound to prove the wholesomeness of their by-laws, nor is it competent for a defendant in such an action to dispute their legality.

"I must strongly dissuade Dr. —— from addressing the letter or any letter to the like purport, claiming to be a physician, to the College. It can by no possibility do him any good, and may (and in the event of his being sued *must*) do him great harm. If an action be brought against the Doctor, the only defence he can set up is, that his practice is surgical and not medical; but if the proposed letter be now sent to the College, it may be used against him, and would be cogent if not conclusive evidence to rebut such a defence.

"I am further of opinion, that so far from this letter deterring the College from proceeding, the possession by them of such a letter, with the knowledge of the advantage they might take of it, would most likely induce them to sue the Doctor though they might not otherwise intend it.

"Dr. —— may perhaps think I have expressed myself strongly, but I do assure him it arises from my anxiety to prevent him doing himself harm.

(Signed.) "R. B. ARMSTRONG."

The defence upon which Dr. Harrison's counsel chiefly relied, for we heard the trial, was the obligation laid upon the College *to prove continuous practice* (pro quolibet mense) *through every month, in which he shall have*

* See our *Gazette* for the preceding month, where this assertion is fully verified.

practised the same faculty without such admission. This necessity Mr. Campbell urged with such force and eloquence, that we are of opinion the Fellows will never again summon courage to appear voluntarily at Westminster in support of claims, founded on selfish and degrading by-laws. Indeed it may be safely averred, that since the Fellows have been forced to abandon their outworks, and take shelter under their charter, it is quite clear that the by-laws are doubly illegal, 1*st*, as they affect graduates generally; and, 2*dly*, as they affect those of Scotland in particular.

With what face can these monopolists, as Mr. Campbell justly called them on the hearing of the rule for costs, proceed to another trial, knowing as they do, that their application would be founded upon gross injustice towards the physician sued, and, what is more to the purpose, that every person in court would know it too?

It cannot, surely, be in human nature, nor in corporation effrontery, spontaneously to assume such an ungraceful attitude. Of this we feel certain, that the amiable and honourable President would never become the champion of measures bottomed on such a foundation.

The animus of Lord Tenterden was most apparent through both trials, and during the judgment.—"In reference to an observation made on Saturday by Mr. Campbell, that the College of Physicians exercised a monopoly, his Lordship would observe, that it could not be justly said that the object of the College was to exercise a monopoly." [Indeed! my Lord.] "The greater number of the physicians practising in London were not Fellows of the College, but *only licentiates.*" [Mark the degrading brand, ye *alieni homines*, the foul stain—*only licentiates!*] "And the learned persons, of whom the College was composed, did not exercise a monopoly any more than did the learned gentlemen whom he (Lord Tenterden) had now the pleasure of seeing before him." [Bravo! bravissimo!]—*Times, May* 26.

MEDICAL EDUCATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

Sir,—As you have done me the honour to condemn with the most unsparing hand, in your last number, my proposed improvement in the present disgraceful system of medical education as pursued in this country,* without giving any reasons for the same, unless my recommending certain sciences to be studied in connexion with the more important requisites in our profession are to be considered as such, permit me respectfully to request you will do me the justice to insert this communication. In explaining my system, I cannot do better than extract the following article on apprenticeships, from my pamphlet, as it explains, I trust, every objection that can be raised against it, with the exception of those persons who profit by the present abominable method:—

"The *evil* in the present mode of commencing a youth's medical education is too glaring to be overlooked. In the public newspapers we often see advertisements from medical practitioners, stating their want of an apprentice, and *puffing* that they are *extensively engaged* in the three branches of the profession, and a premium will be (*of course*) expected. These *puffs* are villanous in the extreme; the pernicious effects of this system are soon pointed out; the parent is cheated of his money, and the youth consigned behind the shop counter for the next five or seven years, instead of benefiting by his master's practice, (as his parents and himself have been led to suppose) where all the knowledge he obtains

"*Is the art and mystery of dispensing medicines,*"

* Vide "A Letter to the Right Hon. Robert Peel, on some of the Impediments, Defects, and Abuses existing in the present System of Medical Education, with Suggestions *for their Removal* and Correction. By H. W. Dewhurst, 1829."

which any youth, possessing only a moderate share of abilities, could learn with facility in the space of six or nine months: thus we perceive they are the slaves and drudges of their masters. However, I am acquainted with several respectable practitioners who are liberal enough to introduce them to practice, allow their attendance on anatomical lectures, &c.; but instances of this liberality are confined to a few only, *a solitary few*, and even some of these are compelled, by a clause in the youth's indentures. Thus, Sir, you will perceive, that four years and six months are completely thrown away, which, as will be seen presently, are the most valuable part of his existence, and might be employed with the greatest advantages to himself, and hereafter, more or less, to the community at large.

"I am now speaking of apprenticeships which occur throughout Great Britain, excluding, of course, those individuals who are bound to hospital surgeons, surgeons of public infirmaries, dispensaries, &c. &c.: with these we generally find a system (approaching in some measure to the plan I shall lay down presently) pursued, by which means, in the course of a few years, they are in some, and in many instances, not unfrequently seen filling, with credit, either the same or similar situations to those filled by their former masters.

"You may suppose, Sir, from the preceding remarks, that I am an enemy to apprenticeships: by no means. I consider it necessary for a youth to have some tie over him, by which, when once bound, he feels compelled to follow the dictates of his master, and who, on the other hand, is also compelled to instruct him according to the terms of his indentures, viz. "To teach him the art and mystery of a surgeon, or apothecary," (or cause him to be taught those very branches of the medical profession he himself practises). Would to God that he did so teach him, according to the modern acceptation of the word. Such, Sir, is not the case; he is a slave, and a drudge; and, in after life, frequently looks back with disgust on the scenes which he passed in his earlier years.*

"In all other trades and professions, a youth, at the expiration of the time expressed in his indentures, is able to follow his business, either as a master or journeyman to another. In our profession, when his time has expired, all he can do is to commence his studies, or obtain a situation as dispensing assistant,† by which he may receive, as a reward for his labours, sixteen or twenty pounds a-year; nay, frequently after he has passed his examinations, received his diploma, or perhaps has obtained the degree of M.D. can seldom obtain more than thirty pounds per year: this is degrading, if not afflicting to the mind of the student and his friends.

"Previous to stating my remedy for the existing evil, it is necessary I should inform you what the youth has to acquire after he is out of his time, in a period of eighteen months, or at most two years. For an account of the lectures, &c. he is compelled to attend, I take the liberty of referring you to the Appendix.‡

"To acquire a perfect knowledge of any *one* of these branches will require not merely a few months, but at least two years to perfect a student for practice, either public or private: 'In fact, the present system of medical education in Great Britain is a disgrace to this enlightened age; it is one that loudly calls for reform, which, if once accomplished, and properly organized, would prove a real blessing to mankind; as it is, it is one of its greatest curses.'

"The remedy I shall propose will, I have not the least doubt, [illegible] opposition among the general body of practitioners, who profit by [illegible]

* See a valuable paper on this subject in the *London Medical Gazette*, No. 35, August 1828.

† His apprentice fee was probably between one and three hundred pounds.

‡ *Nos. I.* and II.

present system. But who can say, I speak not the truth? It is the truth: I promulgate my opinions for the public good, and I trust no personal ill-will on this account will be created against me.

"My plan of improvement is simply this, and is told in a few words; and which I intend to follow with my own apprentices: A youth is destined for the medical profession, and when he is properly qualified, has intrusted into his hands the lives of his fellow-creatures. I should commence with anatomy as the foundation on which the whole superstructure of medical knowledge is supported. In commencing with this science, I am borne out by Mr. Lawrence: to use his own words, "*Anatomy and physiology are the groundwork of pathology, or the science of disease.*"* Thus, I should ground him well in this branch, which, including dissections, would occupy well the first two years; he then should, under his master's inspection, enter the wards of an hospital, where he should learn pathology, at the bedside of the patients, and at the same time he should carefully note down, in a proper case-book,† the description of each case, the history, treatment and termination, accompanied as much as possible with his own drawings and remarks; these ought, if necessary, to be daily corrected by his master, who should give him minute examinations on the principal cases that come under his notice; this, with his attendance on surgical and medical lectures, will occupy well eighteen months longer. At this period it becomes necessary for him to attend lectures on Materia Medica, Medical Botany, Pharmaceutical Chemistry; and, with six months' dispensing medicines, will perfect him in his medical education, as the Obstetrical Lectures he can attend at any time, and although they are the last mentioned, they are not the least in importance. I have been grieved to hear the slight manner in which medical students have spoken of this branch of therapeutics.—I would advise them to be more attentive to midwifery, for their character is at stake—the lives of mother and child are in danger—and the happiness or misery of a whole family not unfrequently depend on the conduct they pursue. It is with pleasure I perceive students are now compelled to undergo an obstetrical examination; the consequent result will be, that notwithstanding the opposition made to the employment of men-midwives, by an eminent hospital surgeon,‡ we shall find in the sequel, that men will be better qualified for the practice of such an important and interesting department of the profession.

"By the pursuance of the plan I have just laid down, I feel confident that if it was put into effect, we should not have men, as we now have, (in many instances) a disgrace to the profession, being unacquainted with some of the very principles of which the profession is supported. From the confession of some with whom I am acquainted, they are entirely ignorant of anatomy, yet they possess an extensive practice; their practice is empirical, and kill or cure is the result. This is truly lamentable in a country like Great Britain; yet the period is not far distant, when I hope to see the present professional ignorance swept away, and real science flourishing in its stead.

"Thus, Sir, at the expiration of the five years, the youth is enabled to present himself as a candidate for the diplomas of the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Apothecaries' Company; and, according to his inclination, may either enter the army, navy, East-India Company's service, or private practice."

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* Lectures on Physiology, Zoology, and the Natural History of Man, delivered to the Members of the Royal College of Physicians. By Wm. Lawrence, Esq. Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's and Bridewell Hospitals. Page 56.

† For this purpose, I recommend the case-book published by Mr. Jackson, of King-street, Southwark.

‡ Sir A. Carlisle.

In addition to the foregoing, I recommend certainly the study of the sciences you object to, considering them of the greatest importance to the credit of the practitioner, more especially a knowledge of forensic medicine, as his evidence is frequently of the greatest importance in criminal cases. Trusting to your kindness in giving this insertion in your next number,

I remain yours, faithfully,

July 2, 1829. H. W. DEWHURST, *Surgeon*,
Lecturer on Human and Comparative Anatomy.

If Mr. Dewhurst will examine attentively our review of his pamphlet, he will find that we have not condemned it "with an unsparing hand." We only object to that part of it which recommends the study of knowlege not intimately connected with the *practice* of the profession, of which we cited phrenology as an example; on the contrary, *generally*, we like Mr. Dewhurst's plan, and we think that he is entitled to much praise for his great and national exertions in the cause of reform.—EDITOR.

DISTORTION OF THE LOWER EXTREMITIES.

Continued from p. 602.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

SIR,—Mr. Novassilzoff, who was sent into this country on a political mission by Paul, the Emperor of Russia, during the war of the revolution, was accompanied by his nephew, a youth of eleven years of age, who had been born with one foot distorted, a case of varus. As no remedy for this was known in Russia, his object was to get some assistance in England, if possible. He consulted Doctor Grieve, who had then recently returned from St. Petersburgh, and who recommended him to employ a Mr. Pugh, who then was engaged in the treatment of such defects. Mr. Pugh attended the case for several months, but no benefit was derived from his exertions. He then advised that the Tibiales muscles, Aponeurosis Plantaris Pedis, or such parts of them as *he thought* were contracted, should be divided; and after that operation had been performed, he said that he believed he should be able to restore the foot to its natural form or action. With this view he had a consultation with Messrs. Cruikshank and Wilson: these gentlemen unequivocally refused to concur in sanctioning the performance of that operation, and Mr. Wilson advised that I should be consulted. Doctor Grieve, Mr. Pugh, and the patient's uncle, were present. When I examined the foot, I saw that it was a case that I could cure, but thought that it would be improper to propose that it should be taken from Mr. Pugh, and intrusted to me; therefore, I only said I thought it would be much benefited by what I could do for the patient; and it was proposed that I should do what I thought would be right, while Mr. Pugh continued to treat it in his own manner. In a private conversation with Mr. Pugh, I desired to know *his opinion* of the case. He said he thought the patient might be materially benefited by his treatment, which consisted in placing him in the most favourable positions, and forcing his foot, *by his own exertions*, to perform such actions as would extend those muscles that were rigidly contracted. He found this muscular contraction was very great, and difficult to be overcome, which induced him to propose the division of those muscles; as he was certain when they were divided, he should be able to turn the foot out, and enable the patient to walk in the natural manner: but as Messrs. Cruikshank and Wilson would not agree to this, he should continue his own process, and thought he should still cure the patient with my assistance. As I clearly saw that nothing but disgrace and disappointment would be the consequence of this mode of treatment, I avoided going to the patient. Doctor Grieve called upon me for an explanation, which I

candidly gave him, both as to the inutility of what Mr. Pugh intended to do, and the certainty of my own success; but that it would be impossible to mix the two processes together. The Doctor said, as that was the case, he should advise Mr. Novassilzoff to employ only one person at one time; and, if that person did not succeed, to try the other: he acted upon this suggestion, and asked Mr. Pugh to fix a time which he should think sufficient to show what he could do for the patient; he did so, no benefit was gained by his exertions, and the case was confided to my care.

At this time, I had a cast from the foot in plaster of Paris: from that cast, the sketch that is now annexed was taken; and I shall briefly describe what, at that time, was the condition of the foot. It was perfectly rigid, and he was unable to move it volumtarily, in any direction: when he stood upon it, the little toe, only, touched the ground. At that time the ankle joint yielded, and bent more and more under the weight of the body, and in consequence the foot became, gradually, more deformed. The head of the astragalus projected much before the tibia; the bones of the tarsus formed an acute angle with respect to the tibia, and bent inwards: the metatarsal bones, likewise, formed an acute angle with respect to the bones of the tarsus. There was no voluntary motion in the toes, and the tibialii muscles, and aponeurosis plantaris pedis *seemed* to be permanently contracted. The knee, in consequence of the imperfect action of the foot, had bent considerably inwards. At the time that I attended this case, I cured all these cases by the application of instruments which I had then recently invented; and the principles upon which those instruments were constructed and applied, have been detailed in the second volume of the *Lancet* for the year 1828: to that work I refer your readers for the details of the process which I used in this case. In four months, by unremitting attendance, his foot was so much altered that he stood quite flat upon it, instead of bearing only upon the little toe, which he did when I first saw him. The top of his foot formed a right angle with the tibia, as much as the top of any other person's foot does. The head of the astragalus had regained its natural position under the scaphoid cavity of the Tibia; the bones of the tarsus had regained their natural position relative to the leg; and the metatarsal bones had almost got into their natural position. The consequence of all this, was, that the foot had acquired a form that nearly resembled the form of his other foot, and actually measured seven eighths of an inch more, in length, than it did when I first saw it. The aponeurosis plantaris pedis and tibiales muscles had lost their apparent rigidity; and, as well as the Tendo Achillis, or rather the Gastrocnemii muscles, which put it in motion, had acquired their natural action. The Peroneii and the extensor Pollicis Pedis muscles, likewise were come into action; and, in consequence of these alterations he was enabled to move his foot in every direction, and in perfect obedience to the will.

So much had been done in this case, that to complete it, it was only necessary to support his leg and foot by proper instruments, till they had acquired strength enough to support themselves. This would have been most effectually done under my observation; but it was necessary that he should return to Russia, and he was supplied with the instruments that were necessary to complete the cure. His tutor, a very intelligent man, who paid much attention to the subject, received full instructions from me as to the management of them. I drew up a statement of the case, so far as I had carried it, and requested Mr. Novassilzoff to give me his opinion of it in writing, which he did in the following letter. As I would not misrepresent any thing that he wrote, which I might do unintentionally, by translating it, I prefer to give it in his original French, which will, no doubt, be understood by all your readers.

" Monsieur,—Ayant lu la description que vous avez fait de l'état dan lequel le pied de mon neveu se trouvoit avant qu'il fut mis entre vos main et de la différence très marquée, que le succès des soins et de moyens qu vous avez employés y avoit déjà porté; lorsqu'à mon grand regret forc par des circonstances particulieres, je me vis obligé de le renvoyer dan sa patrie, et de faire cesser, ainsi, son traitement. Je croirois, Monsieu totalement manquer aux sentimens de justice, et à ceux de la reconnoisanc pour le bien que vos soins ont rendus à un jeune homme qui m'interesse, s je ne saissais pas avec empressement l'occasion que vous m'offrez d satisfaire au desir que j'ai toujours eu de rendre à vos talents un témoinag aussi public que possible. Guidé par ce sentiment ainsi que par l'amour d la justice, je declare que tout ce que j'ai lu dans le memoire que vou m'avez fait l'honneur de me communiquer, porte, en general, et sur tous ce points, le caractère de la plus stricte vérité; et que, de mon coté, je n'a pas le moindre doute que s'il eut été possible de le laisser plus long-temp entre vos mains, sa jambe rentreroit entièrement dans son état naturel En effet, Monsieur, je crois que l'évidence des faits m'autorise de l supposer; car, lorsqu' après m'avoir séparé de lui pour quelques mois je le révis à Hambourg, par où il passoit pour rentrer dans son pays. J ne fus pas peu surpris de le voir poser sa jambe sur la plante du pied, e de maniere qu'il ne resteroit rien à désirer une fois que le vice du genou successivement produit par le poids du corps, qui, dans son état, devoi necessairement porter à faux, seroit enlevé: et, en examinant la dernier machine que vous fites pour lui, et dont il devoit continuer de se servir, j'a cru avoir tous les raisons possibles de former les plus flatteuses espérance que ce dernier moyen remédieroit à ce mal, avec le meme succès qu'on eu les premiers. Je suis fâché, pourtant, que malgré toutes mes instance pour avoir quelques détails sur la suite des effets qu'a produit l'applicatio de cette derniere machine, je ne puis obtenir d'autres réponses, que celle où l'on me disoit vaguement, que sa jambe alloit beaucoup mieux. Je l répéte encore que, pour ma propre satisfaction ainsi que pour la votre j'aurois bien desiré pouvoir être en état de vous rendre un compte plu circonstancié; mais, en attendant, que je sois à meme de le faire, je n suis pas peu flatté de pouvoir vous rendre toute la justice qui est en mo pouvoir, comme un tribut de la reconnoissance avec laquelle jai l'honneu d'être, Monsieur, votre très dévoué,

N. de Novassilzoff

I had, afterwards an opportunity of learning that this patient perfectly recovered the use and form of his leg. The annexed figure 1, contains a profile view of this patient's foot, taken as looking at the inside of the tibia. Figure 2 is a corresponding view of the foot when it had been restored to its natural form. Figure 3 is a profile view of the deformed foot, taken when looking at the fibula. Figure 4 is a corresponding view of the restored foot. The comparison of these figures will show the amount of the alteration that was produced by the treatment of this case.

DEBILITY OF THE RECTUM.—*(Levatores ani.)*

A diminution of the power in the muscles which act on the rectum in expelling the fæces, is a complaint of very common occurrence, and being attended with the symptoms of *Stricture of the Rectum*, it is frequently mistaken for it. Several cases of this kind have lately come under our notice.

A general officer had lost, in a great measure, the power of expelling the fæces, merely from a deficiency of vigour in the muscle for that purpose; the rectum, in consequence, frequently became overloaded with fæces. He consulted a physician, who attributed the difficulty to stricture. On examination by the *speculum recti*, &c., we found the rectum in an opposite state to that of stricture, viz. in great relaxation, with considerable rigidity of the anus. We accordingly recommended the employment of a lavement of the decoction of the pomegranate rind twice a day, which, with three tea-spoonsful of the tincture of the round-leaf cornel, taken in a wine-glassful of water, three times a day, succeeded in removing the cause.

HYDROPHOBIA, &c.

Mr. Wakley has published a fatal case of this dreadful malady, which lately occurred at Hamburgh. A robust, and apparently very healthy man, about fifty-six years of age, was bitten in the cheek by a mad dog; the wound healed in three weeks: a week after its complete cicatrization he however began to feel indisposed; he lost his appetite, was restless at night, and started frequently during sleep. These were rapidly succeeded by all the symptoms of hydrophobia, which soon terminated fatally. On dissection, nothing was found except distension of the blood-vessels of the membranes of the brain, and of the bowels.

A correspondent of Mr. Wakley's mentions a curious cure for hydrophobia; namely, of dividing the bitten part, throwing a pinch of gunpowder into the wound, and then blowing it up!!! This practice had been adopted by Colonel Gattacre, of Gattacre Park, in Shropshire, with the most complete success. The honor of making the discovery is due to the gallant colonel. We apprehend, however, that the use of gunpowder is more adapted to the *blowing up* of enemies than of hydrophobia; at any rate it can only act as a caustic, and as such, is inferior to pure potass.

SUBCLAVIAN ANEURISM.

M. Dupuytren, the most celebrated surgeon of France, has lately performed the operation proposed by our scientific countryman, Mr. Wardrop, for the cure of deep-seated aneurism. The patient, however, died, or rather, we think, was killed by the too free use of the lancet.

ASTHMA, HOOPING COUGH, AND ST. VITUS'S DANCE.

We have met with several cases of the above diseases, in which the saturated tincture of the lobelia inflata, administered as directed by Dr. Robinson in his Treatise on the Round-leaf Cornel, speedily succeeded in restoring the patients to health.

SWELLING OF THE LEGS FOLLOWING PARTURITION—*(Phlegmasia Dolens.)*

Dr. Lee, of Argyll Street, a sound and experienced pathologist, and one of the most rising accoucheurs in the metropolis, has published a paper in the last volume of the Medico-chirurgical Transactions, which at length com-

pletely proves this formidable disease to depend on an inflammation in the large veins of the groin. But we understand that this excellent physician has gone considerably further, and that he is in possession of the history of a fatal case, with the preparation, which demonstrates beyond doubt that the inflammation originates in the veins of the uterus, and from them spreads to those of the groin.

This important discovery very satisfactorily accounts for the violent fever and other symptoms which attend the disease. The merit of making it will, we doubt not, be duly appreciated at least by our fair readers.

HINTS FOR THE EXAMINATION OF MEDICAL WITNESSES, BY JOHN GORDON SMITH, M.D. M.R.S. &c.

Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the University of London. 1829.

Considering the high importance of a knowledge of medical jurisprudence to all classes of society, but more especially to those whose duties lead them officially into courts of justice, where the life of a fellow-creature is often placed in jeopardy, too frequently through the ignorance displayed by medical men, counsel, and judges, in cases of difficulty, as, for instance, where the prisoner is charged with murder, rape, infanticide, &c., it is evident that forensic medicine ought to be made a part of professional education. However, as there unfortunately exists this chasm in the education of men intended for these interesting professions, we cannot but hail the appearance of Dr. Smith's works with unmingled satisfaction, coming as they do from the pen of a man whose whole study has been employed in elucidating this branch of science, and whose enthusiasm and philanthropy have already been the means of saving from the scaffold two unfortunate men. We allude to the case of Butler, who was tried on the coroner's warrant for the murder of Mr. Neal, afterwards proved to have died from apoplexy, and was accordingly acquitted; and to the equally important one of Mr. Fadgen, charged with having procured abortion; but notwithstanding the evidence in the unprofessional report drawn up by the surgeon, and exhibited to the coroner's jury, yet the indentations and punctures made in the uterus turned out, on examination by several "eminent medical men," to be "the openings of natural ducts belonging to the organ, which presented greatly the appearances that would be found in any impregnated uterus at the same period of gestation," and, moreover, "that no attack had been made on the ovum."

We mention the above to shew the importance of forensic medicine being generally cultivated, and we sincerely recommend Dr. Gordon Smith's "Hints" to the careful perusal of every person likely to be called on to give an opinion on medical questions before a jury. The work, which does the author the highest credit, contains a great many questions which may or should be put to witnesses in the most important criminal charges. The Appendix contains the cases alluded to above, with that of Eliza Fenning, who is now proved to have been innocent of the crime for which she was executed.

THERAPEUTICS, CHEMISTRY, &c.

SULPHATE OF QUININE.

This, as a remedy for intermittents, is unquestionably the best preparation of the Peruvian bark, and its vast importance to the public at large, and to medical men in particular, does not therefore require to be shewn; nor is it

at all necessary, by any argument of ours, to point out the dangerous, or even fatal consequences likely to follow the adulteration of it. When first manufactured by the French, the importation duty in this country on the yellow bark was as high as two shillings on the pound; whereas in France, on the same quantity, it was only two-pence halfpenny. The English chemists were thereby totally prevented from competing with their foreign neighbours, who at this time had no motive for adulterating the medicine. The injustice of the high importation tax in this country, however, becoming evident to the ministers of the crown, they reduced it to one penny per pound. The French preparation was in consequence thrown out of the market; but as the chemists of that country are a class of men nearly destitute of any thing like principle, in order to preserve their traffic, and at the expense of the health or even lives of the inhabitants of this country, they had recourse to adulteration, by adding to it another alkali called *lutine*. This principle is obtained from the root termed *gentian*, at a very trifling expense. This infamous fraud it is impossible to detect by any chemical agent. There are, however, luckily two means by which the imposition may be discovered; firstly, by the taste; the adulterated article has an intense bitter taste, much more so than the pure sulphate of quinine; and, secondly, by the following test;—if a little sugar be added to a solution of the adulterated article, it will be found to be a *strong poison* to flies, which is not the case with the pure sulphate of quinine. To try these means, it will be necessary to obtain some pure quinine from a respectable chemist, as, for instance, from Luke Howard, of Stratford, or Wilson and Co., Snow-hill. We have known very distressing consequences to arise from the employment of the French sulphate of quinine, as well as other drugs manufactured in that country. The mixture sold under the name of sulphate of quinine, is apt to produce violent affections of the alimentary canal, as distension of the bowels, &c.

We have felt it our sacred duty to our readers to expose the dangerous imposition which is now practised by the French chemists. It has always been the misfortune of this country, that its inhabitants are too fond of every thing that is foreign; but when that fondness leads to the employment of foreign medicines, such as the above adulteration, it becomes criminal, since it then endangers the health and even lives of human beings.

THE ROUND-LEAF CORNEL.

We continue to receive the most favourable reports of the superior tonic properties of this article. The Earl of V. informs us that he has derived the greatest benefit from the essential salt of the Cornel in combination with the extract of rhubarb and ginger, as recommended by Dr. Robinson, in the following proportions:—

Take of the Essential Salt of the Round-leaf Cornel, two drachms;
Extract of Rhubarb, half a drachm;
Ginger Powder, ten grains.

Mix, and divide into thirty-four pills; two to be taken twice a day.—(For indigestion arising from debility of the stomach, and attended with general debility.)—The essential salt of the round-leaf Cornel contains all the medicinal virtues of the shrub in great perfection; and from the numerous trials we have given it in cases of debility, and from the reports of respectable practitioners, who are in the daily habit of prescribing it, we have no hesitation in asserting that it is very superior to the sulphate of Quinine, or any other tonic with which we are acquainted, in the cases of debility, general and local, for which Dr. Robinson recommends it. We have administered it in upwards of a hundred cases, and we have not met with an instance of its having disagreed with the stomach, or of its having failed to prove

highly beneficial; and from its uniform effects, as a grateful stomachic, and in improving the general health, we agree with Professor Ives, Dr. Robinson, and other American physicians, who have written on its medicinal properties, in considering it the *natural* tonic of man. For cases of local debility, as fluor albus, gleet, &c. it is a most excellent remedy.

SUGAR OF WHEY.—*(Saccharum Seri Lactis.)*

This article, dissolved in water, is much employed in Italy and France as a common beverage in pulmonary consumption; and some Italian physicians suppose that it possesses the power of correcting the scrofulous habit, and that it is very superior to the decoction of sarsaparilla (simple or compound) as an alterative, or "purifier of the blood, &c." The process by which this article is obtained is thus described by Valgamoz and Lichtenstein:—"The fresh whey, after making cheese, is concentrated by evaporation over a gentle heat, after which it is put into moulds and dried in the sun. This is called "sugar of milk cakes." A solution of these cakes in water, after being clarified with the white of egg, is evaporated to the consistence of syrup, and crystallised in a cool place." It has a peculiar soft sweet taste, and is soluble in hot water. A solution of it in water, in the proportion of an ounce to a quart, has the flavour of fresh cheese whey, and is very grateful to the palate and stomach. Like cheese whey, it acts gently on the bowels. The syrup of the Iceland moss, made by dissolving three ounces of the sugar of whey in a pint of the decoction of Iceland moss, is much recommended as a nutritious and corrective article in cases of pulmonary and mesenteric consumption.

Dr. Rouelle, who speaks very highly of the effects of this composition in the above cases, recommends two table-spoonsful to be taken three or four times a day, chiefly as an article of diet. A considerable quantity of the sugar of whey has been lately imported from Italy. It has the no small recommendation of being incapable of doing mischief, and from the beneficial effects we have frequently observed from the free use of fresh cheese whey in cases of scrofula and pulmonary consumption, we are disposed to think more favourably of the sugar of whey as an alterative than of sarsaparilla, or the tisans of France or Italy. It is said that a weak solution of the sugar of whey (half an ounce to a pint) mixed with an equal quantity of fresh cow's milk, is much more easily digested in the stomach of a consumptive or debilitated subject than either cow's or ass's milk.

COMPOUND OINTMENT OF NITRATE OF QUICKSILVER.

The following ointment is recommended as a remedy for chronic, irritative, or inflammatory eruptions or scaly affections of the skin, inflammatory piles, scald head, ring-worm, irritative ulcerations, chilblains, obstinate itching of tender surfaces, &c.

Dissolve an ounce of quicksilver in five fluid drachms of nitric acid, and then gradually add the solution, to the following composition, liquefied by heat:

Take of the expressed Oil of Bays, commonly called Green Oil of Bays, 6 ounces;
True Barbadoes Tar, 1 ounce;
Prepared Hog's Lard, 3 ounces.

It should be well stirred by means of a spatula of ivory, bone, or wood, during the time of adding the solution.

INDELIBLE INK.

M.M. Braconnet and Paristot have published the following receipt for making an Ink, which, on account of resisting chemical agents, they say, merits the name of "*Indelible* Ink."

Dissolve twenty drachms of Dantzic potass in a pint of boiling water, and then add ten drachms of tanned leather parings in small pieces, and five drachms of sublimed sulphur: boil to dryness in an iron vessel, with continued agitation, so as to avoid empyreuma, or ignition, till the whole is become soft; then add gradually half a pint of water, and filter the liquid through fine linen. The liquor thus produced is of a very dark colour, and may be preserved, if kept well corked, many years. They say it flows much more freely than ordinary ink, and that a penful is sufficient to write two octavo pages.

PHOSPHORUS.

A *philosophical* chemist, of Biel, with the view of ascertaining the effect of phosphorus on the stomach, took a grain of it with a little sugar. This dose having no sensible effect, he took two grains the following day, and on the subsequent day three grains. In the course of a few hours, after taking the last dose, he experienced considerable pain in the bowels. Supposing that it was rheumatic, he took nothing to counteract the effects of the phosphorus:—inflammation rapidly supervened, accompanied with vomitting of matter, of the odour of garlic, but not efflorescent; the left arm soon became paralytic; and in the course of five days from the period of taking the last dose, he fell a sacrifice to his *philosophical* experiment.

Some of our London physicians and surgeons, we suspect, will not give the philosopher credit for superior intellects, for having made so bold an experiment on himself rather than on a patient.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MR. VAN BUTCHELL,

Who has just triumphed over an illegal and cruel prosecution, has published his intended speech to the court, from which we extract the following:—

"My Lord and Gentlemen of the Jury,—I am the eldest son of the late Martin Van Butchell, who spent a long and valuable life in alleviating the sufferings of his fellow-creatures who were so unfortunate as to be afflicted with those distressing diseases of the rectum and urethra, called stricture, fistula, piles, and so forth. I not only studied under, but had all the advantages of my father's long practice in cases of this description conveyed to me by him, from having been his apprentice; I also regularly studied surgery, anatomy, and midwifery under many able Professors, some of whom are now living and can vouch for the fact; they also know that I have performed some of the most dangerous operations, with benefit to the afflicted, that ever fell to the lot of an individual. What, therefore, becomes of the base insinuations that have been levelled at me, by some persons, terming me "an ignorant empiric," "a base quack," and other terms which have been applied to me, equally disgraceful to the authors of them? Gentlemen, I am not a Member of the College of Surgeons; but, I trust, that that will not operate to my prejudice in your minds. To entitle a person to practise as a surgeon, it is not essential that he should be a Member of the College of Surgeons; and, although it may be to a certain extent a test of

his education, yet it affords no proof of his practical skill, as most persons are admitted to be Members of the College of Surgeons just as they have done attending lectures, and before they have acquired any practical skill of their own.—I will now, gentlemen, proceed to furnish you with the particulars of the case of William Archer, the deceased, and in doing so, I shall as much as possible avoid technical terms, believing that you will comprehend the bearings of the case more readily. The first and only time I ever saw him was on Sunday, the 10th of May last, on which occasion he called on me, and complained of being in pain in the anus, and said he believed he was labouring under the disease of fistula, or piles. I inquired of him minutely the symptoms of his complaint, but as they did not correspond with the symptoms usual in such cases, I told him I must examine the part, which I did, and found no external appearance that would indicate he was afflicted with either of those complaints. I informed him I believed the pain arose from a stricture in the rectum, at which he startled, and said his wife had died from that complaint. I endeavoured to rally him, and told him if she had, there was no reason he should. I said I could not tell whether he had a stricture in the rectum or not, unless I introduced an instrument into the anus, to ascertain the fact, which he consented to my doing, observing, at the same time, that he was anxious, if possible, to get rid of the pain he had endured. I therefore introduced a small rectum bougie, slightly curved, into the rectum, and in passing it, I met with a stricture about four inches up the rectum, which I mentioned to him at the moment I felt it. I passed it with very little difficulty, and proceeded along the rectum as far as in my judgment was necessary; and on subsequently withdrawing the instrument, not the slightest stain or appearance of blood followed or marked the instrument.—Gentlemen, in performing this operation I beg most solemnly to assure you that I did it with the greatest care, and used the utmost skill I was master of, and if I had ruptured the rectum, as it is asserted I did, blood would have followed the rupture."

ARROW ROOT.

We have received several complaints from families of respectability of the shamefully high price at which this article is retailed at the shops of Messrs. Godfrey and Co. To one lady, who expressed her astonishment at the high price, and who observed that she could procure the *best* at the Medical Hall, in Piccadilly, at four shillings a pound, the shopman, with a countenance expressive of the scientific sanctity of his master, stated that the *genuine* article cannot be sold for less than six shillings a pound!!! So that those chemists who sell arrow root at four shillings a pound, must be guilty either of the crime of adulteration, or of selling an article of inferior quality. Now the fact is, most conscientious Mr. Cooke, (there is no person of the name of Godfrey in the concern,) if you were to direct your scientific representatives behind your counter, to retail the arrow root you have in your possession at three shillings a pound, you would have a profit of nearly forty per cent.!!! surely a very fair profit on an article of diet. This assertion you dare not deny; nor dare you assert, that the article sold at the Medical Hall, is in any respect inferior to that sold by you, either at your shop of business at the West-End, (!!!) or your shop of no business in Southampton Street.

Mr. Henry Sterne, of St. George's, Jamaica, who has paid particular attention to the cultivation of the root, and to the preparation of it for sale, has lately come to the resolution of sending it to this country in small packets, (from four ounces to a pound,) with his certificate pasted on each, of its genuineness and of its being of the finest quality. In these packets it is

l from him at the Medical Hall, and sold in the small packets at the four shillings a pound, and in quantity, exceeding a pound, at three s and sixpence. Mr. Sterne has adopted this plan of sending arrow ltivated and prepared by him, to this country, to maintain his repu- y preventing adulteration.

w root was originally sent to this country (about 35 years ago) when was very dear, as a substitute for starch. The whole of the first im- n was purchased by the late Ambrose Godfrey, at about one shilling l. This cunning tradesman, finding that it formed a good firm jelly, d on a few physicians, particularly Dr. Denman, Dr. Osborne, Dr. ds, &c. to recommend it as an article of diet for children and invalids, ior to sago, tapioca, or any other farinaceous substance." No man in at that time was better acquainted with the art of puffing than Am- lodfrey. He was well versed in the art of throwing a *sprat* to catch . A haunch of venison accompanied each sample of the arrow root; h was the effect, that the article was in demand on the following day, ailed at the moderate price of twelve shillings a pound (!!!) and by of a *judicious* repetition of the haunch, the trade was kept up; and as the demand for it at one time, that forty pounds were sold daily. other tradesmen were furnished with it, the conscientious Ambrose y reduced the price to eight shillings a pound; and shortly afterwards, hillings; but by means of haunches of venison, the *superiority* of the oot, sold by Godfrey, was maintained !!! Although the duty on the has been considerably reduced, Mr. Cooke, under the firm of Godfrey . keeps up the price of six shillings. If every tradesman were d by the same spirit of avarice, the public would derive no advantage e reduction of the importation duties. The late Ambrose Godfrey contemptible ignorant nostrum-monger. Woolfe, a clever chemist time, laughed at his pretensions to chemical knowledge Ambrose y kept a book of receipts, which he would not allow even his sons to ; and his assistants were never permitted to be present even when he tincture. The only person of any chemical knowledge he ever had ervice, was Mr. Hume, of Long Acre; and so jealous was he of him, would not allow him to enter the laboratory even when he was simple syrup. His smelling salt, for which he obtained some celebrity, heir pungency to a strong solution of ammonia, made by Mr. Tower !!! sential Salt of Bark, the Yellow Essence, Ward's Paste, *Lady* Webster's ious Pills, and the trade of this pretended chemist, we will notice in y Number. In the history of chemistry, the name of Ambrose God- otwithstanding all his puffing, does not appear. He was in fact more for his extravagant charges than the genuineness or superiority of his , or scientific attainments. Since the death of Sir Humphry Davy . Wollaston, the scientific chemists of this country have not been able n a head, generally honoured with the title of the *Father* of chemistry. *Mother* of chemistry, they need not go further than *Paris*, if they not find a competent one in the " shop of business," or the shop of iness. So much for the chemistry of 1680.

LEIGH *versus* THE COUNCIL OF THE COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

readers are probably aware, that Mr. Sleigh, a lecturer on Anatomy, y, &c. a man of superior talents and the greatest industry, with a true love ıce, established a hospital in the neighbourhood of Bryanstone-square, sition to that of St. George's, which had been proved to be conducted *ose system*, which rendered it more beneficial to the medical men con-

nected with it than to the patients or the public. The Royal Western Hospital received the sanction of his Majesty and the support of the Duke of Wellington, and some of the most illustrious individuals in this great country. It contains above one hundred beds, which, since the period of its opening, have been generally full. The hospitals of the metropolis, originally intended for the benefit of the poor, have gradually been converted into receptacles for a shameful traffic, by which the medical men, who have now usurped the entire management of them, derive enormous emoluments. Thus the surgeons of Guy's and Bartholomew's Hospitals derive an annual income of nearly two thousand pounds each, by picking the pockets of poor pupils, whom they force to pay a large sum for entering the precincts of an hospital—an institution avowedly established for the benefit of the poor, and the cultivation of medical science. In France, and the other countries of Europe, where the hospitals are under the government of the country, and not of the medical men, pupils, those anxious to gain a knowlege of the healing art and of thus benefiting mankind, are admitted gratis, and even in some countries, as in Italy, *are paid* for studying in them. But in London, the metropolis of a free country, they are forced by a contemptible oligarchy to pay enormous sums, varying from 30 to 60 guineas, for what *legally* they are entitled to for *nothing!* In order to become a surgeon to one of these ill-conducted institutions, it is necessary, not to have a knowledge of the healing art, but to have been an apprentice to the hospital: and thus the medical men attached to it at the time of the apprentice's entry reap a large gain, as the appointment is sold to the highest bidder. We have known one thousand pounds given by a pupil to Sir Charles Blicke, as a premium on becoming his apprentice, or, as it was called, an apprentice to the *hospital*, to which he was attached. The system of making pupils pay for seeing the practice of hospitals, is the most iniquitous that ever disgraced a free country. Mr. Sleigh — and the act does him the highest credit — established his hospital on a very different footing: it was opened *free of expense* to every student who chose to take advantage of it.

The Council of the College of Surgeons have established a most iniquitous bye-law, wherein it is declared, that the attendance on no hospital in the country, in Manchester, Birmingham, or any of the great towns of England, can qualify a pupil to take a diploma in surgery, nor in any hospital in London, saving one, (the Westminster,) which does not contain at least 100 beds. Now Mr. Sleigh's hospital contains above 100 beds; yet this council had the gross audacity to refuse to receive certificates of attendances on it: and why? Simply because Mr. Sleigh opened the doors of the hospital without expense, and thus declined *robbing* the pupils of their money.

A public meeting has been held to inspect the Western Hospital, and to consider of the propriety, or rather of the iniquity, of the council of the College of Surgeon's refusal to receive certificates from it. The resolutions of the meeting declare the hospital to be admirably managed, and express in strong language its abhorrence at the conduct of the council.

Mr. Sleigh has also forwarded a petition to his Majesty. We sincerely trust that the legislature will at length take up the subject, and for ever annihilate the most iniquitous and odious system of exclusion and robbery which ever reared its head into existence, and do Mr. Sleigh that justice which his great exertions in the cause of science, honesty, and of the poor merit.

THE HAIRY BOY.

We have seen this extraordinary phenomenon, an account of whom first appeared in the "*Morning Herald.*" His name is William Stevenson, and

he is three years of age. The whole of his back from the neck downwards, the lower part of his belly, and his thighs, anteriorly and posteriorly, nearly to the knees, are of a yellow tinge, and covered with a sandy coloured hair, resembling that which grows on his head. In addition to this are numerous patches of the same appearance on other parts of his body. The child is quite healthy. The disease belongs to that anomalous class of cutaneous affections denominated *mothers' marks*, and which are generally of an innocuous character. The father of the boy is a book-binder, weak, but healthy; and the mother a pretty, sound woman, and the parent of two robust children.

MEDICAL PHILOSOPHY.

A Dr. B. of M. acknowledges that he poisoned a child by prescribing the acetate of morphine instead of sulphate of quinine, when his mind was intensely engaged on some interesting subject. He advises *studious* physicians to re-peruse their prescriptions before they present them to their patients. In our opinion, the compounder of the medicine was not less culpable than the physician. It is customary for chemists and apothecaries of London to apply to the writer of a prescription for correction when an error is evident. Many a sudden death, occasioned by a mistake or ignorance of the prescriber, or carelessness of the compounder, has been ascribed to the malady in an unhealthy constitution.

WHEAT FLOUR.

It is become a common practice throughout France, with the dealers in wheat flour, to adulterate it with the fine farina of potatoes, termed in this country potatoe-starch. M. Chevalier says, that when flour mixed with potatoe-starch is sprinkled on *black* paper, and examined by a powerful lens or microscope, the starch may be discovered by the brilliancy of its particles. M. Henri, who has thus examined many samples of wheat flour, states, that certain crystalline points are very evident in the flour so adulterated, but the proportion cannot be ascertained by such examination. He therefore separated the gluten, and compared it with that of unadulterated flour, when the result was only six-and-a-half per cent. Some physicians contend that the addition of potatoe-starch improves bread, by counteracting its constipating effects, and by minutely dividing the particles of the flour during fermentation. We are disposed to agree with them in this opinion.

In England, wheat flour is more frequently adulterated with bean-flour than with potatoe-starch; indeed the latter article is sold by dealers in corn and flour at four times the price of wheat flour. Finely powdered granite is the article which is however most used in London for the purpose of adulterating flour. A French chemist asserts, that he has detected "sulphate of copper" (blue vitriol) in bread, and this article, he supposes, bakers use to render their bread light.

PRESERVATION OF POTATOES.

According to an article in Brande's *Quarterly Journal*, it appears that potatoes, at the depth of one foot in the ground, produce shoots about the end of spring; at the depth of two feet, they appear in the middle of summer; at three feet they are very short, and never come to the surface; and between three and five feet they do not vegetate. In consequence of observing these facts, several parcels of potatoes were buried in a garden at the depth of three feet and a-half for two years, when they were there found without any appearance of germination, and possessing their original freshness, firmness, goodness, and taste.

SEA-MOSS OR WEED.

This article, under the names of carrageen, and carragaheen, is become a favourite dietetic remedy for pulmonary and dysenteric consumption with some physicians of Dublin. It imparts to boiling water a strong mucilage, which it is said is more agreeable to the palate, and agrees better with the stomach, than any vegetable or animal jelly; and it evidently corrects the scrofulous and verminous habits. The article found on the Irish coast being so very superior to that of any other part, is commonly called in Dublin "*Irish* moss." The jelly it affords is as firm as that of isinglass. A decoction of it, made by boiling half an ounce in a pint and a half of water till reduced to a pint, is much recommended for weakly, scrofulous, or ricketty children, in preference to arrow-root or the Iceland moss. A wine-glass of this decoction may be taken three or four times a-day. The following directions for its use are sold, with the article, in Dublin:—

Steep a quarter of an ounce of the Moss in cold water for three minutes; then take it out (shaking the water out of each sprig) and boil it in one quart of unskimmed milk, until it attains the consistency of warm jelly.—Strain and sweeten it to the taste with powdered white sugar or honey.

Consumptive Persons should take a small tea-cupful in the morning, and at three or four intervals during the day.

For Colds or Coughs it may be used at any time when the disease is troublesome.

To MAKE BLANC-MANGE.—Prepare it in the same way—boiling it until it becomes sufficiently thick to retain the shape.

To MAKE JELLY.—Use a similar process; but boil it in *water*, carefully straining it after.—The usual seasoning for blanc-mange and jelly to be used.

FOR SOUPS.—Dissolve the moss by boiling in water.

From the well-known peculiar corrective properties of most of the marine weeds or mosses, and the nutritious quality of this variety, we are disposed to think very favourably of it as an article of diet or common beverage, particularly in the species of pulmonary consumption arising from tubercles, and for weakly leucophlegmatic children. We advise those who may give it a trial to sweeten the decoction with the sugar of whey noticed in our present Number.

QUACKERY, &c.

PHRASEOLOGY OF MODERN MEDICAL SCIENCE.

The following advertisement, which appears on a transparency in the window of a *philosophical* establishment in Worcester, has so astounded the medical *gentlemen* of that city, (a numerous class) that we have taken the trouble of copying it for the *edification* of our scientific readers. Dr. Hastings, after subjecting it to a most *critical* examination, emphatically declared, that during all his travels and extensive reading, he never met with so learned a production. Dr. Malden, with a sarcastic smile, said it should have been *painted* on a crimson or *carmine* base; and candidly confessed, that the composition had disturbed the molecular functions of his cerebral system. Mr. Carden, with a countenance expressive of a kind of puritanico-scientific astonishment, frankly stated that *modern medical science* excited a civil commotion in the phrenological allies of his cerebrum and cerebellum, which are naturally small. Mr. Junior Carden's cerebral organs, (naturally a little larkish) were so "conglomerated, or discorded," that he run his head against the lamp, and, fortunately for his phrenological character, *the osseous* protectors of his cerebrum being the hardest, the lamp alone *suffered*. Stevenson attempted to analyse it *scientifically*, but his optics

failing, he declared that he could not "measure" the long words, although he had been accustomed to the use of the scissors and yard.

Dr. Streeten gave it an acute spectacled inspectation, looking as knowingly as a magpie peeping into a marrow-bone, and it was observed that he very significantly shook his head. Dr. Dods, who claimed the *honour* of being the first medical *gentleman* who introduced "*modern medical science*" into Worcester, ventured to ask the *learned* Doctor why he shook his head? "pshaw," said a sapiently looking old lady, "there is nothing in *that*." Mr. Cole, with an indignant smile, declared that the arrangement of the drugs, in the Dispensary of the Infirmary, by Dr. Malden, exhibits as much science as the medico-chirurgico-anatomico-philosophical Athenæum; this, however, Dr. Dods, with his countenance "in vacuo," positively denied, and rather angrily observed, that if Mr. Cole dared to oppose him, he would blow out his brains with an "air pump," charged with "electric fluid."

Mr. Cole, not a little "sudatorised," expressed his doubt whether the doctor, with all his anatomical knowledge, knew where to find his brains—at any rate, observed Mr. Junior Carden, they are well protected. Dr. Nash, with his shoulders elevated and his face elongated, emphatically said, "In my heart, I commiserate most cordially the *learned* doctor for the cerebral fatigue he must have experienced in this wonderfully beautiful composition," and after a short pause on tiptoe, with both hands raised, he vociferated, "The whole might have been as well given in *one* word as in a hundred, viz.—Hum!" The opinions of the medical men of the place, who never lose sight of No. 1, are unworthy of notice. The composition is strictly classical and scientific, and being expressive of the state of *modern* medical science, our readers will no doubt agree with us, that it should be recorded. Surely, such establishments must necessarily knock up the vile trade of quackery, both regular and irregular. "Quackery," observed the late Bishop Watson, "cannot exist where science prevails."

"THE PHYSIOLOGICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, AND CHEMICO-MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL ATHENÆUM, BRITISH AND FOREIGN!!!

ELEMENTARY REMEDIES, &c.

"These, when employed on scientific and approved principles, are the most potent and efficient stimulants at present known for the removal of diseases indicating a general or local deficiency of nervous energy. In consequence of the splendid discoveries lately made in physiology, the vagueness and mystery which have so long obscured the phenomena of the nervous system, are fast disappearing, and the treatment of disorders depending on the nerves is rapidly improving.

Medical properties, laws, and application of Galvanism.
Medical properties, laws, and application of Electricity.

METEOROLOGICAL MEDICINE.

AEROSTATICS—Pneumatic Chemistry, medicinally and philosophically!!!
Medical efficacy of Aromatic and Air-Pump Vapour-Baths.
Medical efficacy of the Sudatory Hot Dry-air Bath, &c. &c. &c.

The sanative powers of the above, together with other remedies, are conducted and applied on new principles, and possess advantages of the greatest medical importance.

The sanguiferous, or circulating system (the heart, and arteries, and veins), and its connexion with the nervous system, is physiologically considered; blood-letting and cupping, subjects of greater importance than generally supposed, are therefore employed not in the usual vague manner, but on the strictest physiologic and therapeutic principles!!!

This ATHENÆUM is intended to be interesting to the friends of science, particularly *to the friends of* medical science, and of course beneficial to the

public in general by assisting in lessening the sum of human suffering. In consequence of the great and daily developement of mind, not only professionally, but in all ranks of society, such an institution has become a desideratum—its public utility will be obvious!!!"

DOCTOR GRAHAM,

Author of "Modern Domestic Medicine," "A Treatise on Indigestion," "A Dissertation on Epilepsy," "A Treatise on Cancer," "Sure Methods of improving Health," "Chemical Catechisms," Proprietor of an infallible Remedy for Cancer, Epilepsy, Indigestion, &c. &c.!!!

Notwithstanding the severe but just castigations this notorious charlatan has received from the editors of several Reviews for the disgraceful plagiarisms which nearly every page of his books exhibits, and from the booksellers whose names he has had the audacity to introduce as publishers of his literary pilferings without their consent, and our exposure of his reviewing trickeries, in conjunction with a puritanical Wesleyan minister of the name of Mac Allum, who represents himself to be a *respectable physician* residing in York! he has ventured to bring into the book-market another new work, under the title of "An Account of Persons remarkable for *their* Health and Longevity." This work is like his other collections of plagiarisms, in which the scissors were evidently more employed than the pen. The learned and conscientious doctor, we begin to suspect, has

"A head no hellebore can cure."

In this new work, nearly every page exhibits a theft. The *Doctor* manufactures books with such rapidity, that he has not time to notice the sources of his matter, or even to introduce inverted commas, so that, to his ignorant readers, all appears original information. He has had the effrontery to introduce into the title-page of his last collection of literary pilferings and into advertisements, the names of Simpkin and Marshall as his publishers, without their consent. No respectable bookseller in this kingdom, who is acquainted with his manufacturing of books, we are convinced, would sanction such a dishonourable trade. We have devoted so many pages of our work in quotations, "as proofs direct," of the sacred estimation in which he holds the literary property of those who have wasted their midnight oil in study, and in committing the results of their expensive and most tedious experiments to paper, for the benefit of their fellow creatures, that we need only notice a few instances of his pilferings in the manufacturing of his last new book in proof of what we have already said of it, and those few, we think, must, in the mind of every honest man, excite feelings of "contemptuous disgust."

Graham's "Account of Persons remarkable for their Health and Longevity."

Old Parr, the son of John Parr, of Winnington, in the parish of Alherbury, in Shropshire, was born in 1483, in the reign of Edward IV. and resided in the Strand (at Lord Arundel's) London, anno 1635, consequently at the age of 152 years and some odd months. He lived in the reigns of ten kings and queens, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. *He is said to have been a man of a*

Sir John Sinclair's "Code of Health and Longevity."

"THOMAS PARR, *aged* 152.—The son of John Parr, of Winnington, in the parish of Alberbury, in Shropshire, was born in 1483, in the reign of Edward IV. and resided in the Strand, London, anno 1635, consequently at the age of 152 years and some odd months. He lived in the reigns of ten kings and queens, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. He is said to have been a man of a

ferent stamina from mankind
al; for a person who had seen
scribes him thus:—"From
heel his body had all over
-set, thick-set, nat'ral hairy
When he was about 152
age, he was brought up to
by Thomas Earl of Arundel,
ried to Court. The king
him, "You have lived longer
er men, what have you done
an other men?" He replied,
penance when I was an hun-
ars old." His chief rules for
y are well known:—"Keep
ad cool by temperance; your
rm by exercise; rise early,
soon to bed; and if your are
to get fat, keep your eyes
d your mouth shut." Or, in
ords, "Be moderate both in
ep and diet." All his inward
peared so healthy, that if he
changed his diet and air, he
perhaps, have lived a good
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RY JENKINS.—The birth-place
ry Jenkins is unknown; but
satisfactory evidence of his
ngevity. At the age of be-
en and twelve he was sent to
lerton, with a horse-load of
previous to the battle of
, which was fought on the
September, 1513, and as he
the 8th day of December,
e must have been then about
rs old. He had been often
in Chancery, and in other
to above 140 years' memory;
re is a record preserved in
g's Remembrancer's Office,
Exchequer, by which it ap-
that Henry Jenkins, of Eller-
n Swale, labourer, aged 157,
duced, and deposed as a wit-
This deposition was taken in
at Kettering, in Yorkshire.
were also four or five persons
parish where he lived, all of
ported to be about 100 years
o said he was an elderly man
ce they knew him. Little is
of his mode of living, except-
k towards the last century of

very different stamina from the rest of mankind; for a person who had seen him describes him thus:—

"'From head to heel his body had all over a quick-set, thick-set, nat'ral, hairy cover.' When he was about 152 years of age, he was brought up to London by Thomas Earl of Arundel, and carried to Court. The king said to him, 'you have lived longer than other men: what have you done more than other men?' He replied, 'I did penance when I was 100 years old.' His great rules for longevity are well known—'Keep your head cool by temperance; your feet warm by exercise; rise early, and go soon to bed; and if you are inclined to get fat, keep your eyes open, and your mouth shut.' Or, in other words, 'Be moderate both in your sleep and diet.' When his body was dissected, all his inward parts appeared so healthy, that if he had not changed his diet and air, he might, perhaps, have lived a good while longer."

"HENRY JENKINS, *aged 169 years.*—The birth-place of Henry Jenkins is unknown; but there is satisfactory evidence of his great longevity. At the age of between ten and twelve, he was sent to North Allerton, with a horse-load of arrows, previous to the Battle of Flodden, which was fought on the 9th of September, 1513; and as he died on the 8th day of December, 1670, he must have been then about 169 years. He had been often sworn in Chancery, and in other courts, to above 140 years' memory; and there is a record preserved in the King's Remembrancer Office, in the Exchequer, by which it appears 'that Henry Jenkins, of Ellerton upon Swale, labourer, aged 157, was produced and deposed as a witness.' This deposition was taken in April, 1665, at Kettering, in Yorkshire. There were four or five persons in the parish where he lived, all of them reputed to be about 100 years old, who said he was an elderly man ever since they knew him. Little is known of his mode of living, excepting that towards the last cent-

his life he was a fishermen, and not only used to wade the streams, but actually swam rivers after he was past the age of 100 years. When he could no longer follow the occupation of a fisherman, he went begging about Bolton, and other places in Yorkshire. His diet is said to have been coarse and sour. In the account given of him in the *Philosophical Transactions*, (Vol. XIX. p. 226) it is lamented that no information had been procured of his temperament of body, his manner of living, and all other circumstances which might furnish any useful instructions to those who are anxious to ascertain the means of attaining longevity.

tury of his life he was a fisherman, and not only used to wade the streams, but actually swam rivers after he was past the age of 100 years. When he could no longer follow the occupation of a fisherman, he went begging about Bolton and other places in Yorkshire. His diet is said to have been coarse and sour. In the account given of him in the *Philosophical Transactions* (Vol. XIX. p. 266) it is lamented that no information had been procured of his temperament of body, and all other circumstances which might furnish any useful instructions to those who are anxious to ascertain the means of attaining longevity."

The article on the mode of treating several maladies, adopted by Admiral Henry, (first noticed by us in the *Gazette of Health*,) occupying eighteen pages, is taken verbatim from a pamphlet written by Sir John Sinclair, and published by Callow about ten years ago!!

We must do the Doctor the justice to say, that in his last book he has made many efforts to go alone by occasionally connecting his pilferings with original matter: and we will defy his puritanical reviewers, even Mr. Jackson, of the, *Wesleyan Magazine*, or the "respectable physician residing in York," to point out more contemptible nonsense in the works of Dr. Solomon, Dr. Courtnay, Dr. Eady, or of any ignorant charlatan, either ancient or modern. "Gout," he says, "in *all* cases is a *local* malady, originating in *constitutional* indisposition; or in other words," continues the *Doctor*, "it is the effect of *some derangement existing in the more important organs of the body which influence the system at large*, the *local* swelling, inflammation, &c. being the result of an effort on the part of the constitution to relieve itself"!!!

It is a *local* disease, and yet dependant on some constitutional derangement, and is an effort of the constitution to relieve itself!!! Would any person of common sense believe, that such an illiterate observation was made by a man acquainted with medicine, or who had applied his mind to the study of it six months? "Moxon's Magnesian Effervescent," he says, "is extremely useful as an aperient, and has the *important* advantage in *neutralizing acidity* at the same time." Now Moxon's Effervescent Magnesian Salt, on being dissolved, becomes a *neutral* salt, and consequently incapable of neutralizing any acid it may meet with in the stomach. Moxon's Magnesian Effervescent is, as we have observed in a late number, a valuable mild aperient, in cases of indigestion of gouty, nervous, or feverish persons, and by obviating costiveness and quieting the stomach, may remove the cause of predominating acid in the stomach, but certainly not capable of neutralizing it. Mr. Moxon, who is a very clever and conscientious chemist, will not feel honoured by such an ignorant recommendation of his salt.

For dropsy, the learned Doctor recommends pills, composed of calomel, *tartarised antimony, compound squill pill, and Powder of opium.* Although he has "plagiarised" a book on chemistry, he is not aware that the alkali of the compound squill pill decomposes the tartarised antimony! His patient, a *Mrs. Biggs*, whom he says he cured of a dropsy by this medicine, has

reason to be thankful for this circumstance; for had the tartarised antimony not been rendered inert, the result would probably have been very different.

For a strengthening pill, the Doctor recommends a composition of the sulphate of quinine with the *compound* extract of sarsaparilla; and in order that his readers may obtain the genuine extract, he recommends them to procure it either from Mr. Batty, Mr. Pope, or Mr. Allen. There is no such preparation as the *compound* extract of sarsaparilla; so it appears the poor plagiarist is really ignorant of pharmacy.

The Doctor has very artfully introduced a receipt for making the elixir of longevity, by a Dr. Jernitz, of Sweden, for improving health and prolonging life; and although any person capable of boiling water may make it as well as the most scientific chemist, he recommends his readers to procure it at the shop of Mr. Smith, of Welbeck-street, where it is kept properly prepared! The basis of this celebrated elixir is aloes, an article which, by producing disease in the rectum and colon, has shortened a hundred lives for every one it may have prolonged. For elderly or irritable subjects there is not a more dangerous aperient medicine. In his treatises on cancer, indigestion, and epilepsy, the Doctor recommends his readers to Mr. Watts, of the Strand, for his nostrums, who, we suspect, has refused to lend his name to sanction imposture.

Although the work is the most silly production that has issued from the press within the last fifty years, the author has already been able to obtain a few complimentary notices of it in some papers, the editors of which admit the puffs of authors and publishers as paragraphs, without commencing with the word "advertisement," for the insertion of which a few shillings more are paid than for a regular advertisement. The artful book-maker pays for the insertion of his puff in one paper, and gives it as a critical commendation from it in others!!! Like Dr. Paris and other book-makers, he frequently refers to his own works. References to his Modern Domestic Medicine, and Sure Methods of Preserving Health, the bare-faced plagiarisms of which we have exposed in our last volume, frequently appear in his new book. Although in the dispensatory department of the *Modern* Domestic Medicine the most powerful poisons, as arsenic, corrosive sublimate, prussic acid, &c. are introduced without any cautions, it is recommended as a safe guide for families; and although the pilferings are from works which are now obsolete, it is designated "*Modern* Domestic Medicine!!!" The author being a Wesleyan, has obtained a favourable review of his contemptible collections of pilferings in the *Wesleyan Magazine*!!! Had he not been one of their flock—a scabby one certainly—the editors would not have noticed a medical book.

MR. JOHN ST. JOHN LONG,

Artist and Curer of Consumption of the Lungs.

Instead of advertisements of cures by this notorious charlatan, of Harley-street, we now hear of nothing but *obituary* attestations. Poor Martha Hudson, of Hepperholm, Halifax, Yorkshire, who allowed Mr. Long to publish her letter, expressive of her gratitude for what he had done for her, which, we are told, was obtained after much importunity, has paid her debt to nature. The learned curer of consumption has lately experienced such a falling off in his fee-trade, that, in order to keep it alive a few weeks longer, he has been active in endeavouring to get attestations of cure from patients who were not in the smallest degree benefited by his silly mode of treatment by friction, and his most dangerous dietetic treatment, viz., ale, and three meals of meat daily!!! The artful artist is threatened by several of his patients with legal proceedings for recovery of some hundreds of pounds obtained under false promises.

DOCTORS CHARLES AND JOHN JORDAN.

Medical Graduates of the University of Petticoat Lane, London, PHYSICIANS *to the East London Dispensary, Proprietors of the* ONCE *famous Balsam of Rakasiri, &c. &c.*

Since the fatal exposure of the infamous Balsam of Raksiri trade of the *learned Doctors* C. & J. Jordan, by the heroic Miss May, these eminent physicians have been very active in giving publicity to another "most important discovery," which by "*long study*, deep research, and at a *great expense*, they have, fortunately for the human race, brought to a degree of perfection which even astonishes themselves!! This most important discovery is no less than a "certain and speedy cure for the most distressing diseases to which human nature is heir; namely, leprosy, scurvy, scrofula, St. Anthony's fire, gout, rheumatism, strangury, gleets, yaws, and disorders originating in obstructed perspiration, or impurity of the blood." No matter what stage the disease may be in, or whether the rheumatism be inflammatory or acute; gout, regular or irregular; the temperament, plethoric or leucophlegmatic: "the celebrated salutary detersive drops" will speedily effect a permanent cure!! The learned doctors commence their dissertation on the wonderful curative powers of this fortunate discovery, with a violent tirade against the use of that "most *active* and *deleterious* poison—*mercury*." "Thousands," say they, "are *mercurialized* out of existence by liver doctors, or wild theorists of the day; or their constitutions so broken, and the *functions* of *nature* so impaired, as to render the residue of life miserable."!! Most excellent! "The celebrated salutary detersive drops" are very superior to any other remedy, because they "strike at the *root* not at the *branches;* and with this *peculiar* advantage, effect a cure when other medicines fail."!!! "In the disorders wherein salivation by mercury has left the patient uncured, weak, and disheartened, and when no other remedy could restore the unhappy sufferer to that health which he unfortunately lost by mercury, the celebrated salutary detersive drops have been found effectual."

After the exposure of the infamous Balsam of Rakasiri trade, of these *conscientious physicians*, our readers will not be surprised on learning, that the basis of the "celebrated salutary detersive drops" is that most active preparation of mercury—corrosive sublimate!!! A very proper remedy for recovery of patients suffering from salivation.

The learned doctors desire their readers to be particular in observing, that the "*salutary detersive drops*," prepared by them, have the "*government* security against counterfeits;" namely, the stamp, with their names!!! The contents of the eleven shilling bottle cost the proprietors about a penny. For the "family bottle, containing four of the eleven shilling size, they only charge thirty-three shillings, by which eleven shillings are saved to the buyer"!!!

Although the charter was granted to the College of Physicians by Henry the Eighth for the "suppression of quackery," the Fellows of the College tell us, they cannot legally interfere with the nostrum trade unless the proprietors, residing within the limits of their jurisdiction, write prescriptions for cases strictly medical, and take fees:—or, in other words, interfere with their trade of fees!!! Are a set of such unprincipled pretenders to be allowed to tamper with the lives of the ignorant, for the sake of lucre, with impunity? If the fellows of the College *dare not* prosecute such pretenders, surely it is their duty to represent their infamous trade to the Legislature. During the next Session of Parliament the nostrum trade and the by-laws of the College will be brought before Government; and the consequent discussion will give rise to an investigation which, we doubt not, will prove fatal to the *infamous* trade of nostrums, as well as that of routine fee-hunters, the latter *of whom is as* disgraceful to the country as that of the *learned* Graduates of *Petticoat Lane.*

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

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MEDICAL BIOGRAPHY.

OF SIR ASTLEY PASTON COOPER, BART.

Surgeon in Ordinary to His Majesty, &c. &c. &c.

LIVING biography is, perhaps, the most difficult part of composition; for in order to conduct it well, the writer should not only have an intimate and personal knowledge of the subject, but he must also divest himself of the prejudices of the vulgar, the misrepresentations of enemies, and the not less misleading partiality of friends; all of which invariably surround distinguished men. But if the biography of the living be so difficult to the historian, it must be confessed, that on the other hand he is nobly rewarded when successful: for he is thus enabled to benefit, to a great extent, the rising generation, by pointing out to it the paths which have led living men to fame, wealth, and honour, and by forming a chart of the rocks and quicksands on which others have been wrecked. Sir Gilbert Blane has observed, that biography is written, not for the purpose of censure, but as a model for imitation. So far he is right: but when he adds, that the failings of character should not be made so prominent as its perfections, we cannot agree with him. Our rule in the following sketches of eminent medical men shall be that of Shakspeare,—

> "Speak of me as I am; nothing extenuate,
> Nor set down aught in malice."

Of all the distinguished names which adorn the annals of medical science, in this or any other country, none, we may well venture to assert, can bear any comparison with his, whose brilliant and useful career we feel it our grateful duty now to enter upon.

Astley Paston Cooper is the son of a clergyman, and a native of the county of Norfolk, where he served an apprenticeship. He then came to London, and entered as a pupil to the late celebrated surgeon, Mr. Cline. At this period of his life he appears not to have been exempt from the youthful follies of gaiety and dissipation—follies not to be too harshly condemned in him, whose after life has been devoted to the relief of the sufferings of his fellow-creatures. Be it remembered also that Mr. Cooper's day of gaiety was short. When attending the lectures and practice of Mr. Cline, he applied himself with extraordinary assiduity to the study of surgery, and there first showed sparks of that ambition, which was to be ultimately crowned with complete success. After finishing his studies under Mr. Cline, he went to reap the benefits of the celebrated medical school of Edinburgh, which was then at the pinnacle of its reputation. Here he imbibed knowledge from every source, and assiduously pursued every acquirement. When not better engaged, he occupied his time (as we were informed by one of his fellow-students), in acquiring the art of public speaking, in which he has since been so conspicuous. Having finished his education at Edinburgh, he came to the metropolis, and settled in the city. He was soon after appointed demonstrator of anatomy to the Borough hospitals. This was his first opportunity of displaying his talents and acquirements, and cultivating the foundations of surgical science. His method of demonstrating was animated but simple, familiar, yet dignified; and his assiduity and attention to

his pupils was unremitting. Possessing such qualities, it is needless to say that he became exceedingly popular with his hearers. His memory was so retentive that he never forgot the name of a pupil, even when nearly 300 were attending his lectures, and he frequently flattered them, by his personal notice, when going the round of his hospital. No man was ever more liked and admired by his pupils than Sir Astley Cooper; and a better trait does not exist in his almost perfect character. At this time, not being much occupied in practice, he cultivated his profession with singular zeal; and then doubtless made those discoveries which he afterwards published. He was in habits of friendship or correspondence with Cline, Hey, Cheston, Allan, Binny, Baillie, Babington, Trye, and all the most illustrious medical men of the day. At this period all who knew him prognosticated his subsequent rise. At a society which used to meet in Leicester-fields, his essays gave proof of the soundness of his judgment, and his capacity for laborious anatomical research. He now married a lady of fortune, and was soon appointed surgeon to Guy's Hospital, and lecturer on anatomy and surgery in its medical school. At this time also he became intimate with Mr. Jones, the most extensive general practitioner of his day in the city. Thus eminent as a lecturer, with an independent fortune and extensive patronage, holding the situation of surgeon to the largest hospital in the metropolis, with frank and agreeable manners, and a splendid personal appearance; it is not to be wondered that he rapidly gained the public confidence, and soon distanced every competitor in the city. He now began to show that his early years had not been unprofitably spent, and ushered forth his work on Hernia. In estimating the value of this magnificent performance, it ought to be recollected that, previous to its appearance, the anatomy of even the simpler ruptures was unknown, and the operations performed for them dangerous and frequently fatal. The author of it had, therefore, the double task of conducting a most laborious and minute anatomical research, and afterwards proposing the best method of operating. How well he executed his task may be learnt from the facts, that his proposals of cure have been universally adopted,—that scarcely any thing has been since discovered in regard to the anatomy of the parts engaged in rupture,—and that this work is still a text-book. At this period his reputation, as a hospital surgeon, had risen to an unexampled height, by his great success as a lithotomist, and by his operations for aneurism: he having carried the principles of John Hunter to such an extent, that, to use his own language, "the father of modern surgery, who flourished only a few years before, would, were he to have risen from his grave, hardly have believed in the improvements which had taken place."

He now ushered forth another work on Fractures and Dislocations, remarkable for its laborious anatomical research, philosophical knowledge, and extended experience. It has had the effect of saving an immense number of limbs, has introduced many improvements in the art of successfully treating broken bones, and will remain a magnificent monument of the greatness of its author.

Besides these two vast undertakings, he has more recently published a volume on the Diseases of the Mamma, besides innumerable essays on hernia, lithotomy, fracture of the hip joint, dislocation, diseases of the nails, and almost every part of surgical science.

All his works are remarkable for their simple language, anatomical research, sound surgical views, and for the proposal of successful methods of cure. With these qualities, it is needless to say that they have become the guides of all surgeons.

His fame now compelled a removal to a more central abode, and he settled in Spring-gardens, as the first surgeon in the metropolis. The extent of

his practice was such, that he commenced seeing patients at *seven* in the morning;—at twelve went to Guy's Hospital, he then performed operations and saw bad cases,—at six o'clock in the evening he delivered his lectures on anatomy and surgery, and afterwards generally went into the country to attend some patient in danger. He thus frequently travelled all night, always, however, appearing fresh and active to the usual hour next morning. The crowd of patients who flocked to his house was so great, that often many of them could not see him for three days at a time; and it is said that his servant made an income of 600*l.* annually, by being paid for ushering them into the presence of the surgeon before their turn.

The annual emolument derived by Sir Astley Cooper for many years from his lectures and practice, is estimated to have been about 20,000*l.* Some of his fees were enormous. For instance, a great brewer, on whom he has successfully operated for lithotomy, overwhelmed with joy, threw his nightcap at his surgeon, containing a draft for a thousand pounds.

His practice was never confined to surgery alone, but he became also the first physician in London. This naturally excited the fear of that jealous and miserable body "the Fellows of all the collateral lights and sciences." They went so far as to send a deputation to try to persuade him to give up medical practice. The answer of Sir Astley was worthy of him: "Gentlemen," said he, "I never refuse my assistance where it can be of any use;" thereby implying, what was the fact, that *the Fellows* were not fitted for the practice of *medicine*. He entertained, we know, a perfect contempt for that *monopolizing body*.

His Majesty having required an operation for the removal of a tumour of the head, Sir Astley, though not a court surgeon, was called upon, by the unanimous voice of the nation, to perform the operation, Lord Liverpool, who was prime minister, insisting on it. The operation was executed with his usual adroitness, and according to a plan of his own. He was now created surgeon to the King, and elevated to the rank of a Baronet of the empire.

His reputation had now reached the *ne plus ultra*;—people came from all parts of Europe and the most distant colonies to have his opinion. No person died content without seeing him, and in all difficult cases his word was the law. His appetite for honour and wealth being now satiated, he gradually relinquished practice in favour of his nephew, Mr. Bransby Cooper. He however still continues to act as consulting surgeon to Guy's Hospital, and gives his opinion in cases of great difficulty, being naturally resorted to by the public and the profession on these momentous occasions. Sir Astley's first wife having died some time ago, he soon led to the hymeneal altar Miss Jones, the accomplished and wealthy daughter of his old friend and patron, Mr. Jones of the city. During his career, the worthy Baronet, principally by means of his eminent practice, and partly also by his matrimonial speculations, contrived to amass a princely fortune, which, together with his estates and title, will descend to one of his nephews.

Sir Astley Cooper, in addition to his agreeable manners and imposing appearance, possesses a kind and really generous mind. He has been the means of pushing forward all those who had the good fortune to become connected with him; and to his kind patronage Messrs. Travers, Bing, Tyrrell, and Bransby Cooper are indebted for their elevation. His pupils and apprentices he never lost sight of in after life, and they almost invariably experienced the value of his patronage. Distressed medical men never, we believe, applied to his bounty in vain; and, considering the number of destitute characters thrown out of employment at the termination of the war, the calls upon him could neither have been few nor far between. Many

instances of his generosity in refusing fees have come to our knowledge. Indeed he afforded a striking example of the little effect the practice of surgery has in blunting the feelings of the well regulated mind. We do not say that Sir Astley has no faults; but of this we are certain, that he possessed fewer than any medical man we have ever encountered or read of.

In whatever light Sir Astley Cooper be viewed, whether as a lecturer, practitioner, or cultivator of the science of surgery, we affirm, what is indeed admitted by all men of sense, that he has never had an equal in this or any past age; and when it is considered that all those distinctions were united in one individual, and blended with a noble and generous mind, agreeable manners, and a splendid personal appearance, it is hardly to be expected that the world will ever look upon his like again. If he did not possess the genius of Hunter, he has unquestionably excelled that great man in every other particular.

During Sir Astley's long career no one enjoyed, in this country, any reputation which at all approached to his, excepting Mr. Abernethy. He was *Proximus sed longo intervallo.* He will be found hardly to stand the test of comparison. Mr. Abernethy, whose pupils and early admirers we were, has enjoyed his reputation, principally, from being supposed to have pointed out a new system of treating many diseases, viz. by regulating the stomach and bowels, and allaying nervous excitement by means of the blue pill. The constitution is thus enabled to act, and it really is astonishing, the wonderful effects it is capable of producing in the removal of disease. This system of medicine was not, however, the offspring of Mr. Abernethy's brain, but is due to the genius of Pott, his master; and, indeed, was known to others long before his time. Mr. Abernethy's work on Lumbar Abscess is not worthy of much notice, since it recommended a practice which experience has proved to be ineffectual; nor does his volume on Local Disease, &c. display that talent for minute research and discovery of a successful method of cure, which so eminently distinguished the labours of Sir Astley Cooper. The only honour which Abernethy is entitled to claim is, having forcibly drawn the attention of men to the great importance of a good digestion in the animal economy; and when the relation of man to the *alma mater* earth is considered, that he is constantly deriving support from her, and as constantly enriching her by parting with his own, it hardly required the talents of Mr. Abernethy to show the vast importance of a proper assimilation of food. Mr. Abernethy has done, it appears to us, little for surgical science, with the exception of having first tied the iliac artery for aneurism of the groin. As a lecturer, he was greatly deficient, for he did not keep up with the rapid advancement of surgical science; and his lectures at the termination of his career, differed in no degree from those of the commencement. His manners were so rough, that it is calculated that circumstance alone put 5000*l.* annually into the pocket of Sir Astley Cooper. This, however, is an absurd opinion, for the public are too good judges of the value of talents and knowledge, to care much for manners; and however ornamental and graceful to Sir Astley his might have been, they could never have acquired for him his deserved eminence, unless he had possessed, in addition, those rare talents and qualities which advanced him. Mr. Abernethy never enjoyed that universal reputation to which his celebrated contemporary attained. We ought here, however, to state, that although Abernethy has done nothing to entitle him to be placed on the same level with Sir Astley, still he is endowed with talents of no ordinary degree, with a goodness and generosity of heart, which we have never known surpassed, and an originality of mind which, had it been obliged to work by the spur of necessity, would have led to more brilliant results.

Of all the medical men who have figured during Sir Astley's time, the reputation of no one has approached so nearly to his as that of the Baron Dupuytren, of Paris, the most celebrated of the continental surgeons. We have studied the history and character of both, we have followed the practice of each, and we have compared their surgical manners and appearance when pacing arm in arm the wards of the Hôtel-Dieu. As an operator, Dupuytren is, unquestionably, Sir Astley's equal, but in every other particular he is lamentably his inferior. What has he done for surgical science? He has published not a single original work. He has, it is true, made a few improvements in operative surgery. In his manners he is a barbarian, and in his mind a brute. We have seen him seize an unfortunate patient, when suffering the agonies of a severe operation, by the hair of the head, merely for not answering a question. And we never accompanied him round the wards of his hospital, without witnessing the sad effects of his unfeeling conduct to his patients. He is reported, in a fit of jealousy, to have broken the arm of his own wife. No man had ever more enemies among his professional brethren. As a surgeon or a man, he therefore cannot stand the test of comparison with Sir Astley Cooper.

When Sir Astley Cooper retired from practice, it required the labour of four or five individuals to supply his place, and of these, Mr. Brodie has obtained the greatest share of practice: but to place in comparison with him the subject of our memoir, would be as absurd as to compare Mount Olympus to a mole-hill. Mr. Brodie has been the author, or rather the retailer of a few second-hand physiological experiments, and of a work on diseases of the joints, which contains nothing new. As a lecturer and operator he is poor, his appearance paltry, and his manners too submissive—add to this, that he is surrounded by a parcel of young sycophants, who have even the effrontery to assert that he is a superior surgeon to Sir Astley Cooper: thus an idea may be formed of "the eminent little man."

Mr. Lawrence may possess more learning than Sir Astley, but what signifies that? He would, in our humble opinion, have been wiser had he applied his mind to more practically useful employment. As a popular lecturer, however, ardent cultivator of medical science, and in manners and appearance, Mr. Lawrence approaches more to Sir Astley Cooper than any man of the present day, and in the course of a year or two he will be at the summit of the profession.

Messrs. Wardrop and Green are also men of great talents and acquirements, and highly worthy of the public confidence which they possess; but history can hardly place them on the same level with the subject of our memoir.

Taking Sir Astley Cooper therefore as a whole, we may state, without the fear of contradiction, that he is the greatest and best surgeon the world has yet ever seen, and we strongly suspect that many ages will pass away before his like be produced again. Of the honourable nature of his mind, we find we have omitted to mention a strong characteristic. Like all great men, he has been frequently assailed by the press, and on more than one occasion by ourselves; yet he had the candour to confess to us that he had never yet been libelled by it; for, said he, "if men did not libel themselves by their own actions, they would never have to complain of the liberty of the press." The statement of Sir A. Cooper is just; and we recommend Dr. James Johnson and others, who are perpetually prating about the libellous press, to consider whether their own actions are not actually the cause of their castigation. Sir Astley on many trials, and even in that where his nephew was a plaintiff, always gave his evidence with remarkable clearness and impartiality. But we find were we to go on mentioning all the circumstances which have come

to our knowledge, illustrative of the greatness of his character, we might fill a volume. We shall therefore content ourselves by repeating that his equal never has appeared, nor will be seen again, that he has been the benefactor of the human race to an incalculable extent, an honour to his country, and the most distinguished ornament of his profession.

In closing this sketch we disclaim having been actuated in the slightest degree either by feelings of friendship or enmity towards the subject of it; and if we have found it necessary to bestow our praises with a liberal hand, our readers will, we are sure, appreciate our motives, since they are well qualified to judge of the merits of industry, integrity, and genius. Of this we are satisfied, that if we had wished to flatter Sir Astley Cooper, we could not have chosen a worse plan than to attempt to fix on his character qualities which it does not possess, for we are too well aware that the most artful language could never mislead his judgment, nor produce any other effect than that of producing for its author the contempt and disgust which it merited.

MEDICAL LITERATURE.

MEDICINE NO MYSTERY; BY JOHN MORRISON, M.D. A. B. DUBLIN.

We hail with pleasure the appearance of this work as another contribution to a series of medical writing which is really intended for the good of the public, and which we have not only long advocated, but to which we have also contributed by the publication of this popular journal, and our well-known *Medical Guide*.

Five-sixths of the medical profession, as Dr. Morrison has well remarked, are men who know little or nothing of the science of life, and it is not wonderful that they should have raised an outcry at the appearance of books, which, by teaching the public some knowledge of medicine, thereby enable them to judge of the qualifications of their medical attendant, and prevent them from swallowing those loads of medicines, intended in general for no other purpose than of running up a bill, without any attention to, or knowledge of, the disease for which they are prescribed. The "Fellows of all the collateral lights and sciences" have been particularly loud in their outcry against this series of medical publications, and for no other reason than because they are the most ignorant of the profession. But the public are the best judges, and the extensive sale of all works of this class, is the best proof of their good opinion. Why should not well-educated people have a knowledge of medicine, remarks Dr. Morrison, which is so necessary to the health of their bodies, as well as an acquaintance with farriery which is only subservient to their pleasures? If the principles of medicine were known to the public it would not prevent them from employing well-educated and honest medical men; on the contrary, it would have an opposite effect, and shew them the necessity of it: but it would certainly for ever annihilate the numerous quacks and impostors who flourish in every part of the medical profession; and would not that be a great benefit to society? Dr. Morrison has forcibly inculcated all the benefits of popular medical writing, and his work is an excellent attempt at adapting that to a scientific form; in fact, it is the first essay in reducing domestic medicine to a scientific shape. He has treated of all the systems or textures in the human body in a familiar yet scientific way, and of the diseases to which they are liable. We cannot give our readers a better idea of the work than by extracting the following portion on the interesting subject of scrofula:—

"With respect to scrofula, or king's evil, (which is the effect of a peculiar

taint in the constitution, derived from the parents) the nature and origin of the complaint are involved in much obscurity. It occurs chiefly in persons of a soft flabby fibre; its symptoms are characterized by the extreme indolence of their progress; and the most approved methods of cure are those which proceed on the principle of giving tone to the muscular fibre, and of invigorating the actions of the vital organs (by cold-bathing, bark, preparations of iron, &c.)

"Many of the symptoms of scrofula are exhibited in the external glandular parts. May not these be *abortive* efforts of nature to remove the disease from the system by those organs?

"The tubercles which occur in the lungs, and which give rise to the most fatal form of pulmonary consumption, the "*tubercular*," have always been considered as of *scrofulous* origin. They appear to me to consist of the glandular apparatus of the lungs developed and enlarged by the local irritation of the scrofulous principle."—Pp. 121, 122.

On the diseases of the genital system the author makes some very judicious and forcible remarks.

"As *retarded* actions of the genital system we have a long train of complaints under the head of impotency and barrenness, connected with structural, nervous, and mental causes. These are the diseases that have afforded such an ample field to the swindling empiric, and unprincipled charlatan, in conjunction with the maladies more peculiarly called venereal ones, in his designs on the purses of his victims. The credulity of mankind—the pride of our nature, which teaches us to brave death itself rather than risk the scorn of mankind—and, above all, the ignorance of the principles of life, and of the science of medicine, which I have dwelt upon in the introduction to this treatise,—have all aided those adventurers in their projects, and have enabled them to possess palaces, bought and constructed with the treasures and blood of their victims. Witness the enormous fortunes of the S——s, the L——s, &c. of to-day, and of all the secret doctors of days gone by, by whose means the blood of so many families has been tainted in its source. Look at G—— House, that structure raised from the balsam so appropriately called *golden!*"—Pp. 160, 161.

For the publication of this work Dr. Morrison is entitled to the praise of all honourable and scientific medical men, and of the discerning part of the public; and by it he has shown not only great professional knowledge, but also what is infinitely superior to that,—the possession of noble and liberal sentiments. We need not add that we recommend it strongly to our numerous readers.

MR. TUSON, ON ANEURISM.

HAVING paid a good deal of attention to the accounts published in various medical works of operations for the aneurismal enlargement of the carotid arteries, particularly to the case of John Martin, lately published; and finding by the *post-mortem* examination just such appearances as I conceived would naturally be the result; and from observations previously made of their generally fatal termination, I am very much induced to doubt the propriety of their performance. That the arteries may be tied with safety, is true; that the tumour will be diminished in consequence, will be readily allowed; and that where there is much vascularity, the wounds will heal; and that the patients have been discharged from the hospital apparently well, we know has happened: but we seldom hear what the subsequent health of the patients has been after having left it. Though a material difference of opinion may exist between us respecting its propriety, I beg it may be understood it is not my intention to offer the slightest dis-

respect to any of the distinguished individuals whose names may be mentioned in this discussion, as it is of the greatest importance to society that this operation should be viewed in all its bearings, and that its principles and practical utility should be carefully and maturely weighed; my object in writing on this subject being directed for the sake of humanity, and the benefit of the profession. Mr. Wardrop has stated some successful cases where the ligature has been applied. As far as the stopping the circulation and diminishing the tumour go, they are satisfactory, and in any other artery, I have no hesitation in saying, may be advantageously used.

In the case of the lady seventy-five years of age, it appears there was a progressive diminution of the bulk of the aneurism and the strength of its pulsations; that on the 14th day after the operation it was not larger than half its bulk, and that at the end of the 5th week the ligature came away, and the patient's health appeared to be perfectly re-established; but with the subsequent state of health we are unacquainted. Another case is Nowlan's, in whom the carotid artery was tied for a pulsating tumour on the head. In the account of the *Lancet* it appears that the operation was performed about the middle of September, 1827. He went on well till the fifth day after the operation, when he had a severe rigor, after which he was affected with general febrile symptoms. On the seventh a hemorrhage occurred; eighth, no hemorrhage, but general febrile symptoms continue. In the account of the *Lancet* of the 6th of October, 1827, it is stated that venous hæmorrhage had occurred daily since the operation. On the 11th day he complained of pain in the left eye-ball and orbit; he also experienced some degree of deafness, and was remarkably drowsy, and his intellects were effected. On the 12th these symptoms had increased, complete blindness and deafness had now succeeded, and he was affected with a degree of stupor almost bordering on coma. On the 14th day after the operation every disagreeable symptom had subsided, except the protrusion of the eye-ball; the tumour had diminished most perceptibly in size, and had lost, in some degree, its varicose appearance, and the patient had fairly surmounted the danger of the operation. In the *Lancet* of the 13th of October, it is stated that on the 10th, protrusion of the eye-ball had proceeded to a great extent, and that effusion of serum had taken place between the conjunctivæ and sclerotic coats, but that the tumour was diminished, that two small abscesses had formed under the integuments of the back of the neck and of the posterior part of the scapulæ; that on the 18th a slough was formed on the upper portion of the sclerotic coat, and that the evacuation of the contents was the speedy consequence. On the 25th day the tumour was one-half less, the ligature came away, the pulsation was slight, and the integuments had assumed their natural appearance—that the temporal, occipital, and posterior aural arteries did not pulsate. These statements do not exactly tally. This is all we have heard of this case since, till he was admitted into the Middlesex Hospital, under the care of Mr. Mayo, on the 4th of January, for lumbar abscess, attended with great emaciation and hectic fever. He became delirious on the 19th, and unable to void his urine, which was drawn off from him by the catheter, and on the 21st he died. When the patient came to the hospital, the tumour, for the removal of which the operation had been performed, pulsated strongly. By the *post-mortem* examination, it appeared that the common carotid artery was obliterated, and the internal jugular vein was apparently impervious to a considerable extent; that there was pus effused in great quantity round the commissura tractuum opticorum, along the whole base of the brain, and in the fourth ventricle: it was contained between the pia mater and tunica arachnoidea. An effusion of pus, equally copious, occupied the whole length of the spinal chord interposed between

the same membranes. I am of opinion, that the effects of this operation are always seriously felt, and that incalculable mischief must be the result, and always ensues, and that, from the importance of the function of the artery operated upon, it has never been performed with the impunity that has been ascribed to it. Contemplating the complexity of the mechanism of the brain, the delicacy of its structure, the importance of its office, the minute ramification of its blood-vessels, with an organization of nerves too minute and subtile for inspection, by which we receive all our corporeal enjoyments, and even the powers of the mind are extensively influenced by its action; when we likewise consider that the sense of smelling, seeing, hearing, tasting, and feeling, each of which is a secret world of wonders, all emanating from and supported by the powerful influence of its inexplicable organization;—I say, when we accurately consider all these circumstances, how is it possible but that material derangement must arise from the privation of an artery, so essentially necessary for so primary and important an organ? Perhaps I may be told, that the circulation can be carried on by means of the vertebral arteries forming the basilar artery, sending off the arteriæ communicantes posteriores Willisii, anastomizing with the arteriæ communicantes anteriores, sent off from the internal carotids; as also by means of the anterior cerebral artery, a branch of the internal carotid, uniting with its fellow by a cross branch, which completes the circle of Willis, and by these means a communication can be carried on by which the blood will pass from one internal carotid to the other. In reply to this, I must observe, that though by this wonderful precaution taken for our preservation, the brain would have been protected from any disease, arising gradually, obliterating any one of its vessels, and have been capable of averting any evil that might have assailed it; yet here, where so serious and sudden an injury is inflicted, I conceive we egregiously err in expecting it; and that if we refer to the case of Mr. Mason, where the operation was performed in so masterly a manner by that excellent surgeon Mr. Vincent, on the right carotid, one of the cases above alluded to, that hemiplegia supervened in about half an hour after the operation on the left side, and that all motion was gone though the sensation had not entirely disappeared, and that the sensation on the right side and extremities were partially affected; fully confirming my statement of the dangerous effects of intercepting this source of the circulation through the brain. That the vertebral arteries and the opposite internal carotid are not sufficient for the purposes of the animal economy in the brain, will be farther elucidated by the operation performed by Mr. Key, in January 1824, which reflects great credit for his dexterity as a surgeon. Though it was performed in the best possible manner, yet a numbness took place in the side, and continued till his death, which happened in about a week. Now if the vertebral arteries could have carried on the circulation effectually, the operation having been performed in both these cases in the most skilful and scientific method, death would not have ensued. I am inclined to think Mr. Key views this subject in the same light as I do, as lately another patient, with an aneurism in the carotid artery, applied to him, and he wisely declined so hazardous an undertaking. This operation has likewise been performed by Mr. Coates, of Salisbury, and Dr. Duffin, in both which cases it was unsuccessful, and death was the result. Under a due sense of all these considerations, my judgment strongly militates against it. Where we have reason to fear the tumour will soon break, it may be deemed advisable, for the chance of the prolongation of the life of the patient, to perform it. Wretched as the alternative is, I fear it will be useless, and after all we can do

Χειρηργὸς ἰᾶται θάνατος.

I offer these observations to the notice and consideration of the profession,

in order to impress on their minds, before they consent to operate, to take sufficiently into account the peril to which the patient is exposed, as weighed against the chance of benefit: and,

I am, Sir, your obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN TUSON.

Howland Street, August 10, 1829.

DR. EPPS, ON PRUSSIC ACID.

Extract of a Lecture on the use of Prussic or Hydrocyanic Acid, by Dr. Epps, Lecturer on Materia Medica at the Royal Western Hospital.

The profession is much indebted to Dr. Elliotson for the facts which he has made known regarding the use of this acid in *affections of the stomach.* I shall present you with an analysis of the cases which he has recorded; point out the most prominent symptoms relieved by the use of the acid; detail the circumstances that should contra-indicate its use; and finally enumerate some diagnostic marks by which symptoms, important in reference to the use of this agent, apparently similar, may be distinguished.

In forty-six of the cases related by Dr. Elliotson, *pain* existed at the *pit of the stomach*, and in seven of these the pain was increased *after* eating: and in one more the pain was *dreadfully violent* after eating. In four cases, the pain at the pit of the stomach was *constant:* in four cases the præcordia were tender on pressure: in six cases there was *tightness*, increased in some after eating: *weight*, in three or four cases, was felt after eating: in three cases, the pain was of a *gnawing* kind: in some cases, the pain came on *periodically:* in fourteen individuals, *flatulency* was a prominent symptom: in nine, *tremblings* occurred: in four cases, *nausea* existed: in fifteen individuals, *vomiting* sometimes of the food, sometimes of bile, and occurring in one every morning: seven had a discharge of *fluid into the mouth: pain of the head*, in some examples alternating with the pain in the stomach, was a symptom. *Nervousness, debility*, and *lowness* of spirits were conspicuous in some of those relieved. Some cases of pains of the *heart* and of the *left* side are enumerated where the acid is beneficially given; indeed, this is a most powerful remedy, and one which will hold a very high place in the practice of every intelligent practitioner.

You will thus see that pain at the pit of the stomach is one of the most striking symptoms relieved by the use of this medical agent; that accompanying this pain, vomiting, discharge of fluid into the mouth, nausea, flatulency, and tremors were frequent. This combination of symptoms indicates considerable *irritability* of stomach, and it is in cases of irritability that this medicine is peculiarly useful. When *inflammation* of the mucous membrane exists, the remedy is not so useful; leeches and blisters are the most beneficial; and if any irritability should remain, then the acid confers all its advantages. When after its use, moreover, nausea, vomiting, pain and tightness of the præcordia are either produced or increased, the remedy should be intermitted. You will remember, gentlemen, that it is when pain is at the *pit of the stomach* that this remedy is beneficial; when the pain affects other parts of the abdomen it is not so useful; and you must bear in mind that a sensation of weight, and that increased after a meal, occurs very frequently when *inflammation* of the lining membrane of the bowels exists: that *tightness* also in such a state of parts is frequent; further you have generally *febrile* symptoms in addition; and these will be your guide. In inflammation of the stomach *pain* exists, but then it is a *burning* pain; and you have *heat* over the epigastric region, while the extremities are cold. Indeed, the more we examine disease, and study the nature of our remedial means, the more will it be found that discrimination is absolutely necessary, and that

nothing is more foolish than the conduct of individuals who tamper with their own frames, and exhibit to themselves the active articles of the materia medica.

There is, moreover, another circumstance to which you must have respect. It is this: that you use *prussic acid*. You are not to use what may, sometimes, be sent for prussic acid; for this is often only playing with disease, since the article sent is little better than water. See that your prussic acid is good—obtain it from good practical chemists, who have their character to support, and then you may be certain of gaining all the effects you wish. I have frequently been very much disappointed when I have found, on calling on my patients, to whom prussic acid has been prescribed, that no mitigation of the disease has taken place; I have examined the medicine, and found it to be totally inert. I have directed them to get their medicine made up at some respectable house, and, to my great pleasure and their satisfaction, the same prescription has been the means of effecting a speedy cure. Medicine is such only when it is good.

I shall conclude this lecture with the case of an out-patient at this hospital.

Elizabeth Tett, married, forty-eight years of age, being ill two months. Tightness at the pit of the stomach; pain on drawing the breath; constant weight; flatulence, not relieved by eructation; water rising into the mouth.

Take of Prussic Acid, one drachm;
Aromatic Confection, five grains;
Pure Water, two ounces;
Ammoniated Tincture of Valerian, three drachms.—Mix.

A tea spoonful to be taken three times a-day.

July 18th, Tightness, pain and weight diminished; palpitation just as bad; flatulence not so much; no water in the mouth.

Continue the use of the mixture.

July 21st, Tightness; pain and weight still less; flatulence less; water in the mouth quite gone; palpitation as before.

Continue the use of the mixture, taking two spoonsful.

July 25th, Palpitation better; all the other symptoms relieved.

August 1st, Great deal better.

Continue the use of the mixture, and add twenty drops of the aromatic spirit of ammonia.

August 6th, Cured.

This will serve to present to your minds the proper objects in reference to stomach affections, for the exhibition of this most powerful remedy; and this, gentlemen, will conclude the lecture for this morning.

PRACTICAL REMARKS ON INCIDENTAL DISEASES, &c., BY DR. KINGLAKE, OF TAUNTON.

(Continued from page 570.)

Disease of the Cardiac, or Upper Portion of the Stomach.

There is no situation in which a diseased state of vital power is liable to more painful, progressive, and irreparable affection, than the cardiac or upper portion of the stomach. When this part is disturbed in its healthy action, it subjects the patient to almost incessant pain; and when alimentary and other substances pass over it, momentary torture is often experienced. This morbid excitement is not stationary, but usually extends itself both above and below the cardiac fabric. Pending its highly sentient stage, much local and sympathetic suffering arises. Substances do not find ready and easy admission into the stomach; and their arrival thither, occasions in

the necessarily disordered state of the digestive process, great additional distress.

Whilst the morbid affection is confined to a distempered condition of the nervous or sensitive principle of life, unattended with inflammation, either of the acute or sub-acute kind, and free from any solution of structural continuity, the grievance, however afflicting, may possibly subside, and admit of permanent removal. But when its protracted duration has induced altered structure; when, by accretion or new growth, or by ulcerative decomposition of surface, the disease has reached an aggravated form, it becomes at once the most torturing and irremediable malady that can be contemplated.

Whatever material, under these morbidly irritable circumstances, is presented for admission into the stomach, exasperates the attendant pain, and in every instance, enhances the severity and danger of the ailment. This disease, seated at the entrance of the primary digestive organ, in the cavity of which the nutritive conversions and arrangements that are requisite to the ulterior alimentary support of the various ordinances and functions of animal existence are effected, is perhaps, of all others the most deplorable, because the most destitute of every efficient mode of relief.

A case of this unhappy description has occurred to the writer to witness, during a long course of observation whilst the patient was living, and after death, an opportunity was afforded for inspecting the morbid ravages that had been made. On examination, it was found that the membranous and other structure forming the cardiac aperture in the stomach, extending about an inch into the œsophagus, was much thickened and indurated, and studded with ulcerative erosions, differing in depth and width. Some were superficial, exhibiting the aspect of fungous elevations, whilst others assumed an excavated or cancellated appearance. The area of the passage through this morbidly enlarged and contracted structure, was so small, as scarcely to admit a common-sized probe without using force in carrying it through. Above this mass of structural disease, the œsophagus had dilated into a sort of pouch, capable of containing, perhaps, about three ounces of fluid. In this diseased cavity, liquid aliment would lodge, and quiescently remain for about a quarter of an hour, when it would be rejected. Pending however, its continuance in that situation, it would probably pass, as it were *guttatim*, into the stomach, by which alone the patient was subsisted during upwards of nine months, when the feeble remains of life became finally exhausted. This destructive ailment originated from indigestion, and strikingly exemplified, in its irrepressible progress, the irritative, inflammatory, and structural stages of that insidious, undermining, and dangerous malady.

Pyloric Disease.

The affections of the lower or pyloric portion of the stomach are chiefly founded in an undue contraction of the opening in that part leading into the adjoining bowel, termed duodenum. This natural aperture is necessarily closed during the incipient stage of digestion obtaining in the stomach. If however, this contracted state should not be accurately synchronous with the digestive action, if it should either inordinately precede it, or be too long protracted after it has been performed, inconveniences, more or less distressing, will inevitably ensue.

In those cases, the repletion is painful from mechanical distention, and the quality of the detained contents in the visceral temperature, and other vital circumstances to which they are subjected, will speedily become so insufferably stimulating, as to provoke their own discharge, either by forcing a descent through the narrowed pyloric opening, or be rejected by vomiting.

through the cardiac outlet. This state of commotion impedes the digestive process, and causes acute suffering in the morbidly sentient condition of the whole stomachic organ, especially in its cardiac and pyloric portions.

The mechanism of the stomach cannot be disturbed by adventitious interference, without incurring a state of disease of the most eventful and afflicting nature. Whilst the disturbance is limited to disordered excitability, it may be transient, and admit of direct and effectual remedy; but when structural changes have been induced by a long continuance of diseased excitement, when that which was at first simple irritation, has through inflammatory violence, caused a solution or breach in the fabric of the affected part, the case becomes truly appalling, in as far as the functional action of the unsound texture may render the disease an increasing evil, and preclude every reasonable prospect of effecting a cure.

Slight irritative derangement even of the pyloric function is acutely felt, and when it becomes structural, the ailment assumes a character and tendency replete with danger; indeed, a condition of disease arises that is not less formidable in its nature, than inaccessible to any direct and effectual mode of relief. A morbidly irritable state of the pyloric opening into the duodenum is no rare occurrence, but a structural affection of that passage is happily less frequent. When however, either the one state or the other actually exists, the probable remedy would be ptyalism, effected by mercury and opium, conjoined with counter-irritation over the region of the stomach. A demulcent diet, consisting of milk, isinglass, infusions of linseed, marshmallow root, &c. and a daily injection of oleaginous clysters, would be the most appropriate mode of relief that could be adopted. A strict prosecution of this course of treatment, in which the digestive function would be as much relieved and protected as possible, and the diseased part would be subjected to as little accessorial disturbance as would be consistent with the exigence of nutrition, may prove effectually remedial.

Duodenal Affection.

In the portion of the intestinal canal immediately proceeding in a continuous line from the stomach, named duodenum, a most important part of the digestive process is performed. Although its irritative and sensitive powers may bear a general resemblance to those of other parts of the intestinal canal, yet they possess a specific capability peculiarly adapted to fulfil the purpose for which that fabric was designed. It is not easy to define the precise influence exerted over alimentary substances in the duodenal cavity. The confluence of the biliary, pancreatic, and duodenal secretions in that situation, effects decompositions and recombinations that result in the formation of appropriate nutriment.

The function of this division of the intestinal tube seems to be that of a second stomach, instituted to advance and perfect the digestive process, commenced in that which precedes it, and of which it appears to be a continuation. The incipient stage of the digestive function obtains in the stomach, in which, solution and decomposition seem to be effected by the vital, mechanical, and chemical agencies therein exerted. Thus prepared, the contents of the stomach are transmitted to the duodenum, in which new auxiliaries are supplied to complete the digestive arrangement necessary to vital sustenance.

From the interior surface of the duodenum, as from that of the stomach, a peculiar fluid is probably secreted, which, in commixture with the juices of alimentary substances taken for food, and the biliary and pancreatic secretions, constitutes the chylous fluid that furnishes the system with its necessary nutriment. The digestive action obtaining in the duodenum is,

perhaps, of equal importance to that which takes place in the stomach, or rather they are the commencing and terminating stages of one and the same process. Indeed, they are so essentially connected, and so mutually dependent, that the one could not exist without the other.

Stomachic oppression is irksome, and apt to be subversive of digestive action. Duodenal repletion is likewise painfully burthensome, and unfits that portion of the alimentary canal for duly partaking in the digestive function. When the diseased condition in these cases is simply irritative and not inflammatory, abstinence from an indigestible quantity of suatenance, suitable alvine evacuation, and brisk friction over the epigastric region by means of a flesh brush, are likely to prove effective remedies. When however, inflammatory affection, and even structural mischief have arisen, the case has a more dangerous tendency. But even in these circumstances the sedative and alterative agency of mercury and opium, with unirritating diet, soluble bowels, and counter-irritation, may eventually overcome the morbid state, and superinduce that which may prove permanently healthful.

Congestion.

This is a state of vascular action in which the transmitting power is insufficient for healthy circulation. It is synonimous with plethora, and is similarly constituted by a preternatural fulness and distention of the sanguiferous vessels of the congested part. This incumbrance, from a slow, and an unequal distribution of the circulating fluids, may occur in any part of the frame. No vital part is exempt from it, and every portion of the system may become the seat of its existence. It is not essentially connected with deficient power. The vital energy which should be actively unfolded, is oppressed, and rendered inefficient by the impediments with which it is clogged and restrained.

The torpid state of vital power in those cases, causes diminished action, in which the principle of strength is rather accumulated than exhausted. The resources of life in such circumstances, are not drained, but unemployed, and are more apt to superabound than to be deficient. This condition indicates, at once, the nature of the inability, and what is its most appropriate remedy. To attempt to excite amidst an insuperable obstacle for natural exertion, would be to aggravate, not to relieve. Instead of such an attempt producing healthy action, it most probably would be followed by inflammatory and even structural mischief.

Congestive disease therefore, requires suitable depletion, to enable the morbidly distended vessels to exert the contracted action that would propel forward and accelerate the slow and insufficient motion of the circulating fluids that caused the diseased oppression.

Abstraction of blood is the most direct remedy in congestive plenitude; next to that, brisk and continued alvine evacuations; and finally, the degree of mercurial excitement, that would equably and congenially stimulate the prevailing languid action so as to bring into full development and exertion the dormant and ineffective energies of vital power. Wherever congestive fulness and inaction prevail, whether on a visceral organ or in any of the more subordinate structures of the frame, mechanical room and freedom should be afforded for the vascular exertion to be made that is consistent with the healthful state. The diseases of congestion can only be overcome by adequate and lasting depletion.

Debility.

In a sensitive consideration of this condition of vital power, debility may be regarded as being universally present in every variety of disease. Health-

ful tone is characterised by a sense of strength and energy, forming a contrast to what is experienced under almost any circumstances of disease. The disordered state, in as far as it is a deviation from that which is natural, is necessarily attended, in a greater or less degree, with the sensation of debility. This conscious debility however, requires to be correctly appreciated. If it arise from diminished power, it is a real state of weakness, and may be considered as a positive ailment of a serious and eventful character. If, on the contrary, the power of life is not radically deficient, but deranged, depressed, and impeded in its natural action, the accompanying debility exists in feeling only, and not in reality.

These opposite states of vital power may be inferred and estimated by the attending circumstances. The state of sheer exhaustion resulting from deficient nutriment and protracted disease, is manifested by general depletion, diminished vital energy, feeble arterial action, sinking languor, and universal torpor. These symptoms are unambiguously conclusive of real debility. In circumstances however, of plethoric fulness and oppression, in which vitiated secretions and morbid action are apt to prevail, the general strength is depressed and embarrassed, in such a manner as to prevent its active buoyancy and energetic exertion. It is indeed, so restrained and fettered, as to be almost in a state of abeyance, pending which, symptoms of apparently real debility present, and are often so imposing, as to induce a persuasion of that being real, which in fact is no more than a semblance.

If a sense of debility equally accompanies every variety of disordered health, it is of the utmost practical importance to discriminate the different conditions of vital power with which this community of feeling is associated. It is deplorable that a mere circumstance of sensation, which almost exclusively refers itself to the sensorial or nervous property of life, should decide the seeming nature and requisite treatment of disease. The fallacy is great, and the consequence often lamentably destructive.

Much closeness and accuracy of investigation are necessary in every disease of a questionable nature, in respect to deficient vital power, and that which is disturbed only, but not materially lessened. In the former case, nutritive and other congenial excitement is indicated; but in the latter, the curative object consists in removing the existing obstacles to due vital exertion, by which, an opportunity is afforded for the restoration of the healthful state. The one case may be considered as positive, the other as negative debility. The bugbear of debility has consigned incalculable numbers to an untimely tomb, by instituting modes of treatment which, in the mistaken endeavour to re-produce strength, have excited and urged that which latently existed to a state of destructive violence.

Immoderate exertion of vital power tends morbidly to exhaust, and if it be not repressed by seasonably relieving the diseased condition by which it is sustained, real and even mortal debility may result from its indefinite continuance. The medical indication therefore, in all diseases, is to supply what may be wanting in cases of real debility, and to abstract what may be oppressive in those instances in which the apparent weakness proceeds from the depressed and shackled energy of vital power, and not from its positive deficiency.

Collapse of Vital Power.

This arises from a state of the living principle in which the usual capability for being excited, the natural susceptibility for being affected by stimulating agency is at so low an ebb, as barely to sustain the condition of life. The influence of noxious powers operating on the motive energies of animal being, insidiously impairs and unfits them for healthy exertion.

During this period, the excitability of the living state remains unimpressably torpid. The incipient or cold stage of febrile disease affords a striking example of this state, as does also every variety of disabling or enervating agency that depresses and impedes the natural exertion of vital energy. Extreme cold, deficient nutriment, mental distress, atmospheric impurity, especially that which originates from miasmal impregnations, narcotic influence, and excessive sleep, may cause the powers of life to recede from the standard of health, into the narrow and inefficient dimensions that constitute morbid collapse.

The period of collapse may be extended to a mortal termination, or it may furnish an interval for the accumulation of vital power that will at length be exerted in salutary re action, by which, the energies of life will be evolved, restored and established. The resources of natural capability on those occasions are in general adequate to the exigencies of the case. However depressing the torpor of collapse may be, an increasing stock of vital power or excitability amasses during its continuance, until the unexpended accumulation invigorates, excites, and often introduces even an excessive degree of vital action.

Were it not for this happy provision of nature, the state of collapse would be, in every instance, an advanced stage towards death, and that event would be unresisted and inevitable. The cure of collapse is adequate re-action, and when it is either slow in occurring or insufficient in its exertion, its solitary influence is proportionately incomplete, and will require such medicinal and other aid, as the circumstances of the case may indicate. Increased temperature, brisk friction over the cutaneous surface, and alcoholic excitement, are the most efficient and availing stimulants in the inactive and unrecovering infirmities attending a collapse of vital power.

Hooping Cough—(Pertussis).

This is a spasmodic affection of the bronchial structure of the lungs, induced by a morbid excitement of the vital power of that fabric. No material disturbance can occur in that situation without occasioning the expulsive effort of coughing, which is an inherent provision for removing from the respiratory tubes offensive obstruction. It is the peculiarity of this disease to be sheerly irritative in its commencement. Its protracted continuance, as in other instances of inordinate excitement of the membranous lining of the bronchial structure, will produce an immoderate secretion of mucus, which both by its quantity and quality will provoke its own discharge by occasional coughing.

The curative object in this disease would be to abridge its continuance as much as possible, and thus to obviate the ulterior mischief arising from its prolonged duration. The early stage therefore, of this ailment may be successfully treated by calomel and opium, in the relative proportions of two grains of the former to three grains of the compound powder of ipecacuanha, taken every six hours, until active ptyalism be induced. This result will usually ensue in about four days, when the morbid irritation will probably subside, the cough will become suspended, and will speedily terminate altogether.

If, after ptyalism has arisen, and the convulsive coughing has subsided, mucuos secretion should continue, so as necessarily to produce occasional coughing for its expectoration, it may be soon overcome by giving of the sulphate of zinc and dried squill, each one grain, conjoined with three grains of the compound powder of ipecacuanha, every four hours. Pustular inflammation may be also uniformly sustained on the surface of the chest, by *means of* tartarised antimonial ointment during a few weeks, which will

greatly extend the benefit already obtained, and contribute to obviate a recurrence of the malady.

Buffed Blood.

The superficial aspect exhibited by blood abstracted from the venous portion of the circulating current, furnishes no valid authority for indefinite bleeding. It is however, too commonly held to be a sufficient warranty for free, and almost unlimited blood-letting. Irreparable injury may result from acting on this fallacious persuasion. The colour, is the effect of slow coagulation. The same blood received in a shallow vessel with an extensive surface, will rapidly coagulate; and, consequently, assume a florid appearance, which, if taken in a deep vessel, such as a common basin, will coagulate slowly, and its surface will be more or less buffed.

That which is almost solely influenced by temperature cannot therefore, be regarded as a true criterion of the blood being inflamed or not, as it is commonly phrased. The heat with which the blood is naturally imbued will escape more or less readily after abstraction, according to the mechanical circumstances in which it is placed. If largely exposed to atmospheric temperature, its coagulation will be rapid; if less so, its extrication will be comparatively slow. In the former case, the red particles of the blood will not have time to subside through the coagulable lymph by which they are suspended, but will be arrested by it in the process of coagulation, imparting a florid hue to the surface; in the latter case, the red particles will be precipitated, leaving the coagulable lymph destitute of the reddening effect which their presence would afford. If therefore, what is really fortuitous, should be held to be essential, and lead to an erroneous indication of relief, the consequence might be serious, and should rather be cautiously avoided, than inconsiderately incurred.

The least fallacious test of the quality of blood that would, or would not require a diminution of its quantity, is its greater or less state of density when coagulated. If its texture be so firm as not to be readily separable, it has been rendered so by either an healthy, or a morbid tonicity of vital action, and in such circumstances, the loss of blood may be justly considered as always safe, and often as highly salutary. On the contrary, when the mass is of loose consistency, it may be inferred that the exertion of vital power in transmitting it, has been too feeble securely to admit of farther reduction.

The condition of arterial action, with reference to its being either hard or soft, is a less equivocal guide to any occurring occasion for blood-letting than could be derived from either the texture or aspect of the blood abstractedly considered. When a decided hardness exists in the arterial pulsation, the measure of bleeding is unattended with risk, but when it is soft, it could not be effected without considerable hazard.

The buffed appearance of blood occasionally presents itself in every variety of morbid excitement, and should therefore be practically regarded rather as indicating an excess of temperature, not admitting of speedy coagulation, than as an inflammatory exertion of vital power.

Croup.

A most distressing case of this disease recently occurred in a child of about three years of age. It had probably gone the length of inducing an effusion of coagulable lymph on the surface of the portion of mucous membrane that was the seat of the inflammatory action. As is usual in those circumstances, the effused lymph had firmly coagulated, so as to have formed a coating over the mucous membrane. This superadded substance became a source of incessant irritation, occasioning a convulsive cough of

the most urgent and unrelieving kind. The ordinary remedies of leeching, the warm bath, blistering, and occasional emetics, had been tried during about three weeks. At this period of the ailment, almost despairing of affording any effectual relief, two grains of calomel, and three grains of compound powder of ipecacuanha, were given under my direction, every morning and evening; and every two or three hours, a tea-spoonful of a solution of tartarized antimony, containing about half a grain of that substance. This solution induced almost constant nausea, and frequently a vomiting action. The calomel, in the course of a few days, rendered the mouth sore and drivelling. Pending this evacuant process, in the action of vomiting, a sheathing of coagulated lymph, of the cylindrical form of the windpipe, from whence it was detached, was rejected, and with its removal, all irritation ceased, and the child speedily recovered from the debilitating effects of all but suffocating obstruction and excitement. The cause being mechanical, its displacement was rapidly curative. The conjoint alterative, anti-inflammant, and emetic effect of the mercury and antimony, no doubt powerfully contributed to the relief that was afforded. Had the case been abandoned to its difficulties, the patient must have succumbed; the medicinal assistance therefore, which was rendered, signally obviated the mortal issue that was imminently endangered.

Typhus Fever.

Three cases of this malady, in which protracted congestion and oppression had greatly depressed vital energy, were happily relieved and cured within these few weeks, under the writer's observation, by suitable depletion, followed by slight mercurial salivation. In each of these cases, blood, to the extent of sixteen ounces, was abstracted, and the bowels were afterwards freely evacuated by adequate doses of calomel and jalap.

The pulse in each case was quick and small; the head much oppressed; the tongue thickly coated; thirst urgent; the skin hot and dry, and exhibiting bilious discolouration. Great apparent debility also prevailed. Under these circumstances, to each patient were given three grains of calomel, with two grains of antimonial powder, every six hours, adding one grain of opium to the night dose, and ten grains of jalap when the bowels required to be moved. In the course of a week, moderate ptyalism was induced, which was sustained by continuing the calomel morning and evening only. Convalescent amendment speedily ensued the mercurial soreness of the mouth, which advanced most favourably to ultimate recovery, which was sufficiently effected in about a fortnight, to remove all reasonable apprehension of remaining danger.

It would be difficult to adduce instances in which moderate vascular depletion, and free alvine evacuation, followed by mercurial excitement, systematically diffused and sustained for a few days, more unequivocally succeeded in effecting early and progressive relief than in the cases recited. In two of these instances, when the mercurial treatment was commenced, the patients' situations were, in the several opinions of the respective medical attendants, thought to be hopeless. The curative result therefore, was highly gratifying, and satisfactorily evinced the practical worth of the mode of remedy that was instituted.

In these congestive and oppressive cases of low remitting fever, the distribution of the circulating fluids is morbidly unequal, casting a painful incumbrance on some viscera, and a deadly weight on others. The effect of this disproportionate and unwieldy circulation is to shackle and diminish the energies of vital power, so as to induce a state of torpor and collapse. In this depressed, not exhausted state of natural strength, mercurial excite-

ment, by its pervading and renovating influence, contributed to afford the necessary relief, by causing a salutary exertion and diffusion of vital action throughout the system, at once disembarrassing the visceral organs of an undue quantity of the circulating fluids, and reinstating a healthful condition of the various secretions. On those occasions, morbid action mingles in every vital movement, requiring a beneficial agency, that would restore the natural and healthy functions of life. Mercury appears to be the remedial agent for effecting this great and salutary change.

Measles—(Rubeola.)

This is an affection that becomes either mild or severe, as it may be influenced and determined by accidental circumstances. In its abstract nature, it is not virulent, nor likely to assume an inveterate form. The state of the system at the period of its accession, in reference to the general strength and habitual diet, will greatly modify the character, the progress, and the event of the disease.

The malady is intrinsically of the inflammatory kind; that is, adapted to excite the motive power of life somewhat immoderately, but which will be in a greater or less degree as the general and special excitability of the system may be more or less susceptible of increased action. The disease pervades the whole frame, but is apt disproportionately to affect the pulmonary organs. The curative object therefore consists mainly, in protecting those vital organs from participating so largely in the disease, as not only to disorder their respiratory function, but, by impeding the necessary transmission of blood through them, to endanger life.

The whole treatment should be uniformly sedative or anti-stimulant, withholding all dietetic and medicinal articles that would inordinately excite. The atmospheric temperature should be moderate; the cutaneous warmth temperate, but unvariedly steady; counter-irritation over the chest should be instituted and unremittedly sustained by means of pustular inflammation induced by tartarized antimonial ointment, or by the excitement produced by either a cummin or vesicating plaster. The intestinal discharges should be free, but not excessive; the salutary outlet being rather by the skin, than any other emunctory. Local bleeding, by either cupping or leeching, or more generally from the arm, if the arterial action should be hard and firm, as well as accelerated, should be instituted. The diet should be of the slender farinaceous kind; and cool or tepid aqueous liquids, acidulated or not with lemon juice, should be freely drank, with a view to the refrigerating and sedative effect of sufficient dilution.

When the disease is either epidemic or endemic, many lives may be preserved by instituting a dietetic and medicinal preparation, such as used to be practised in the inoculated small-pox. Abstaining from animal food and fermented liquors, and, from immoderate personal exercise, previously to the occurrence of the malady, will tend to render it mild in its commencement, temperate in its progress, and favourable in its termination. In ordinary cases, under the attempering aid of the previous management here suggested, the disease will become too slight to be an object of well-founded solicitude.

When, however, from peculiarity of temperament, and morbid susceptibility, the ailment assumes a complicated, eventful, and hazardous character, the force of the disease usually falls on the pulmonary system. The functions of other vital organs are not often materially deranged by the progress of the disease; but those of the lungs are too complicated and essential to life to be in a state of similar immunity. The inflammatory action of measles predominantly obtaining in the lungs, will so interfere with the respiratory

as well as the transmitting function of these organs, as to incur an imminent risk of incidental suffocation. The uniform temperature secured by keeping constantly in bed, and diluting freely with slender tepid liquids, with such medicinal aid as circumstances may require, would be the safest course that could be pursued, and most likely to obviate the pulmonary difficulties usually resulting from incautious and negligent treatment.

The specific excitement by which the morbid action of measles is constituted, does not endure beyond a definite period, when the diseased action spontaneously terminates and becomes extinct. This process is, perhaps, comparatively safe in any other visceral function than that of the lungs. When however, it prevails in the brain, delirium is apt to be induced, which will proceed, with greater or less paroxysmal violence, according to the existing temperamental or peculiar susceptibility for being affected.

A remarkable instance has lately occurred in the writer's practice, in which the latter stage of rubeolar or measly excitement especially obtained in the brain, by which the mental function of that organ was temporarily deranged, producing the usual incoherency and hallucination of maniacal affection. It continued, with but short lucid intervals, during upwards of a week, when it gave way, and the rational state of the understanding became fully restored.

The intestines often disproportionately share in the diseased action of measles. They appear indeed to be the customary, perhaps natural site of its influence. The peristaltic power of the intestinal canal is apt to be inordinately excited by this morbid determination, inducing diarrhœal evacuations, which have generally a salutary tendency, and often a beneficial effect.

In the endemic measles prevailing of late in this neighbourhood, the bowels have been so much disordered as to have caused the destruction and expulsion of worms in numerous instances. This effect has extensively occurred, and has probably arisen from a peculiar virulence in the disease that proved destructive to such worms as were subjected to its influence.

On one occasion an abscess formed in the thigh of a young child as a sequel of measles. The fetor of the matter that was vented was intolerably nauseous, which seemed to arise from the highly distempered action by which it was generated.

Alterative Treatment.

Diseases of various aspects, exhibiting a vast diversity of symptoms, are constantly presenting as the more or less direct effect of dyspeptic ailment, enervating the general strength, distempering the natural actions of the specific structures, disturbing the inherent harmonies of health, vitiating the different secretions, and habitually establishing an inveterately morbid condition of vital power. To define with intelligible precision what nominal designation should be given to these indescribable states of motley disease, could not be attempted with any practical utility or advantage. The instances must be estimated and referred agreeably to concomitant circumstances, and to the principle of diseased action that may be developed by them. In all these instances however, two leading objects present for medical consideration, the supply of adequate nutrition through the medium of disordered digestive organs, and to subdue the diseased action that at once preys on the general strength, deranges the healthful functions of life, and by progressive inroads on the natural state, threatens the structural integrity of such portions of the frame as may be more particularly affected by the prevailing morbid influence.

These corrective and restorative objects will perhaps be best effected by

exclusively confining the diet to cow's milk, taken in quantities not exceeding four ounces at a time, repeating that portion every two hours during the day, and even night also if required, so as to consume about three pints in the course of twenty-four hours. If neither oppression, sickness, nor vomiting should result from this dietetic article, its beneficial effect will soon be experienced in restoring and energizing the dilapidated strength of the system. If constipation should arise, it may be removed by occasionally taking half an ounce of manna, dissolved in a portion of the milky or alimentary beverage, and if any cordial or stimulating effect should be incidentally required, it may be commodiously afforded by adding either a tea or dessert spoonful of either brandy or rum to the milk, two or three times a-day, as it may appear to be indicated.

The medicinal treatment may consist of one grain of calomel with three of extract of hemlock (*cicuta*) taken in the form of pill, every night and morning, until slight ptyalism may ensue; when this has occurred, it should be suspended, resuming the course after the mercurial excitement may have considerably diminished, so as uniformly to sustain the salutary influence that may result from keeping the system sufficiently saturated with the remedy to enable it to overcome the habitually established state of the diseased action. By substituting mercurial excitement for that which is morbid, the latter is superseded by the former. The morbid action would indefinitely continue, and might even destructively endure, whilst the mercurial one by which it had been subdued, would be but temporary, and spontaneously terminate. Diseases of long standing, and of inveterate character, would probably yield to this nutritively and medicinally alterative treatment: indeed examples of its efficacy seem to authorise the expectation. *(To be continued.)*

ASTHMA.

Mr. Gordon, a scientific and experienced surgeon of Wilton, South Cove, has published some valuable practical observations on the nature, cause, and treatment of a variety of this disease, vulgarly termed the "*Hay Asthma;*" in consequence of its "occurring in some individuals during the ripening of the grass, and which is evidently caused by the odour arising from its flowers." The malady does not differ, either in symptoms or seat, from the simple spasmodic asthma; and the effluvium arising from the flowers of grass or from fresh hay, acts merely as an *exciting* cause on persons strongly predisposed to asthma. The exhalations from other flowers, on such individuals, have frequently the same effect. Of all the remedies Mr. Gordon employed in the "hay asthma," he observes, "the *etherial* tincture of the *lobelia inflata*, given in the dose of one drachm every three or four hours, in a little cold water, afforded the most speedy and effectual relief. The respiration," says he, "was always rendered more free by the first dose, and after a second, it became perfectly easy and natural, and all the other symptoms rapidly disappeared." Mr. Gordon concludes his communication with the following judicious remarks:—

"During the continuance of the asthma, the patient should confine himself to the house as much as possible, and should eat biscuit, and the more digestible kinds of animal food. He should sedulously abstain from all spirituous and fermented liquors, and use only coffee for drink. He should also abstain from fresh vegetables and fruit of every description; because these, by readily entering into the acetous fermentation, generate within the stomach an abundance of gaseous matter, whereby this organ becomes distended, and respiration, of course, greatly impeded. Care should also be taken to obtain

a daily and free evacuation of the bowels by the exhibition of one or two drachms of the Epsom salt every morning. Purging is improper. Diuretics, likewise, should be given, in order to preserve a plentiful secretion from the kidneys; for I have often noticed that whenever the urinary discharge was copious, the fits were generally less severe than when it was scanty.

"As soon as the inflammation of the eyes and irritability of the mucous lining of the nostrils supervenes, it should be subdued by keeping a piece of fine linen, wetted with an evaporating lotion, constantly applied to the forehead and across the nose. If this measure be not persevered in, the air-vessels will become affected by the spreading of the morbid action, and the asthmatic symptoms will soon make their appearance. But, if the inflammation of the eyes and irritable state of the membrane lining the nostrils be timely reduced, the paroxysm will be postponed, and often entirely averted; and if it should come on, it will be not only milder, but shorter in its duration.

"Opium, I have found to be decidedly injurious. It increases the fever, headache, wheezing, and suffocative tightness across the chest. Vegetable acids were given, but without success; and blisters and tartar emetic ointment were of no utility; nor was any material diminution of the symptoms ever observed to succeed the inhalation of steam, or the abstraction of blood by leeches, which were occasionally applied to the chest. The warm bath was not of the least service; but immersion of the feet in hot water generally proved beneficial. Hay asthma, like every other variety of asthma, depends upon a state of general or local irritability; and as far as my experience extends, its best prophylactic is the cold shower-bath, which, by its tonic properties, removes that weak and irritable condition which forms the foundation of the disease. The preventive, where it has received a fair trial, has succeeded most completely. It should be commenced with about six or eight weeks previous to the expected recurrence of the complaint, and employed every morning without intermission, until the hay is being gathered in. Its effects are speedy and most agreeable. If the patient feels any obstruction in the nostrils, heaviness of the head, tenderness of the eyes, tingling in the throat, or impediment of respiration, which he not unfrequently does when he first wakes in the morning, he no sooner uses the cold shower-bath, than all these threatening symptoms disappear, and he feels light, vigorous, and active, and can breathe with the most perfect ease and freedom. During the employment of the bath, the alvine canal should be gently and regularly acted upon by means of saline aperients; and if any thoracic uneasiness be experienced during the day, a dose of the etherial tincture of the lobelia inflata must be immediately had recourse to. If the cough continue after the other symptoms have terminated, it is best relieved by opiates, by stimulating embrocations rubbed upon the chest and along the spine, and by change of air. From what I have witnessed, then, I am disposed to conclude, that the cold shower-bath, used in the manner and with the precautions I have laid down, will prevent the access of hay-asthma; and that the asthmatic fit will at all times yield to the etherial tincture of the lobelia inflata."

Dr. Robinson, in his Treatise on the peculiar tonic properties of the Round-leaf Cornel, and antispasmodic virtues of the lobelia inflata, speaking of the effects of the etherial tincture of the lobelia inflata, observes, "on some asthmatic patients, its effects were so quick and complete in terminating the paroxysm, that it seemed to act as a charm."

SCARLET FEVER.

Messrs. Taynton and Williams, respectable general practitioners of Bromley, in Kent, have found the tincture of the deadly-nightshade (recommended by

us, some months ago, on the authority of the celebrated Prussian physician, Hufeland, as a preventive of scarlet fever), to afford security against the "contagion" of this malady. When the disease prevailed in a boarding-school, they administered it to all the boys who were free from it, (about twelve in number), to four young children, and several servants, all of whom escaped the disease. In another small school, where they visited a child about two years old, who was attacked the previous evening, they also gave it a trial. In this case, the disease was of so malignant a nature that it proved fatal on the third day. The house was very small. There were then in it, three other children, five boarders, and a servant girl, to whom the tincture was exhibited, which fully succeeded in securing them against the disease. Messrs. T. and W. decline offering any conjecture on the *modus operandi* of the medicine. They are satisfied in giving the "facts" exactly as they occurred, and they request their medical brethren to make trial of it when a favourable opportunity offers. The tincture they employed, was made by dissolving three grains of the extract of the deadly-nightshade in three ounces of proof spirit. Of this tincture, they directed "as many drops to be taken as the patients were years old, twice a-day." Hufeland recommends it to be given in much larger doses, and if it operates as a preventive by diminishing the excitability of the system, so as to render it unsusceptible of the action of the "contagion," or any condition of the atmosphere, it should certainly be given in a dose sufficient to produce that effect. Few experienced practitioners would expect to derive any advantage from three drops of a tincture, an ounce of which contains only a grain of the extract, even on a child of one year old, or from twenty drops on a person of twenty years of age, a dose that does not contain the two hundredth part of a grain of the extract.

AFTER-PAINS, AND PAINFUL MENSTRUATION.

An intelligent lady residing in Oxford desires us to give publicity to a preventive of after-pains and of painful menstruation, which she has uniformly found successful, viz. white pepper-corns swallowed whole, either with warm water or in caudle. To prevent after-pains, she advises four or five corns to be taken on the commencement of labour, and to be continued two or three times a-day till the third day after delivery. To prevent painful menstruation, she recommends four corns to be taken twice a-day, commencing one or two days previously to the expected period. Simple as this preventive remedy may appear to be to our medical readers, we are disposed, from the numerous reports we have received of its efficacy, to think very favourably of it. Whether it acts in such cases beneficially as a stimulant, or as some Italian physicians say, as a sedative, we shall for the present decline to hazard an opinion. Like Messrs. Taynton and Williams, of Bromley, we are satisfied with a simple relation of the fact of its efficacy.

TAPE-WORM.

The editors of the French Journal of Medical Chemistry have published several cases of tape-worm, in which a scruple of the extract of the male fern root was attended with complete success. He orders the dose to be administered three times in the course of a week: but in general he has found one dose sufficient. He directs a purgative, as infusion of senna, or the basilic powder, to be taken the following day, with the view of carrying off the dead worm. From the uniform success that has attended the use of this remedy in the Doctor's practice, he draws the conclusion that the extract of the male fern root is the most certain specific for the tape-worm that has been discovered. The Doctor has found it to act mildly. He has also

found it to expel the small worms which lodge in the rectum and colon, termed ascarides.

VACCINATION.

Mr. Wakley has published a letter from Doctor Delagrange, (transmitted by Mr. John Fosbroke, the *consulting* surgeon, of Cheltenham!) in which he states that "many children vaccinated in France have had the small-pox, even the confluent, and that many have fallen victims to this frightful malady after having been vaccinated." The consulting surgeon of Cheltenham attributes the failures to the degeneracy of the matter, in consequence of its having passed through the suppurative process for such a length of time in human subjects. It seems that the disease, which some years since was very prevalent among cows in Gloucestershire, is become extinct in that county; for the consulting surgeon, a gentleman of very minute observation, concludes his communication with the request, that his readers who may meet with the *natural* disease, will send some lymph, directed to him at Cheltenham. "I am in search," says he, "of it myself; but up to the present moment to as much purpose as Zaidig in quest of the basilisk. I am told it occurs in the north of Ireland." Dr. Delagrange proposes to keep up a supply of the genuine virus by occasionally inoculating the cow. In order to ascertain if the vaccine virus be really, what some theorists have fancied it to be, small-pox matter, modified by passing through the process of suppuration on the teat of a cow, Dr. Coley of Cheltenham, inoculated some cows with the small-pox matter, but it failed to have any effect. In consequence of this failure, the Doctor advised the consulting surgeon to repeat the experiment on some calves. But, says he, "the *inconvenient* manner in which, according to the Doctor's account, the cows endeavoured to kick and toss him in the air, with *certain* other considerations, deterred me!" The scientific consulting surgeon might have found among his brethren in Cheltenham calves from whom he need not be afraid of receiving a kick, although one or two may have the power of tossing him by means of horns.

The slovenly manner in which vaccination is performed in France, in our opinion, satisfactorily accounts for the frequent failures which have occurred in that country.

INTROSUSCEPTION.

We have lately met with a case of this most formidable and distressing malady, attended with considerable inflammation and fever, which was evidently produced by cubebs, taken for a specific inflammatory affection of the urethra. Copious abstraction of blood, frequent exhibition of a sedative and aperient lavemens (alternately, warm-bath) by Read's lavement instrument, succeeded in removing the obstruction.

LIGATURE TO THE AORTA.

Mr. James, a surgeon of Exeter, has published a case of aneurism of the external iliac artery, in which he ultimately applied a ligature to the descending aorta, with the view of giving the patient a chance of a prolongation of life if not of recovery!! "The situation and size of the tumour precluding any attempt to tie it *above*," Mr. James adopted Mr. Wardrop's plan of applying the ligature *below* it, viz. to the femoral artery. The tumour continued to decrease in size for a short time; but, says Mr. James, "the ground gained was shortly again lost, and after *considerable* further enlargement, it became evident that the process of *sloughing* was about to take place." Mr. James now "fully and explicitly" acquainted the patient with

his situation, and he having "judged that it was better to take the only chance which remained, than perish by bleeding, and his nearest relatives having given *their* consent, he applied a ligature to the descending aorta." He admits that he experienced much difficulty from the "great and *very embarrassing protrusion of the bowels:* the ligature nevertheless was applied, but the patient died in the evening, having suffered extreme pain in the limb from the time the ligature was drawn"!! On examination of the parts, "it was found that the ligature had been applied to the aorta without including or injuring any other part." An Inquest was not held. Mr. James having signified his intention to publish all the particulars of the case, and the *circumstances* which justified it, &c. &c., we shall defer the publication of the account we have received of it, till after it has appeared.

NERVOUS INDIGESTION.

Mr. T. Baker, of Stamford Street, Blackfriars, (author of a Letter on the peculiar stomachic properties of the Chirayita,) informs us that the tincture of the round-leaf cornel, in the dose of two tea-spoonsful in a wine-glass of water, three times a-day, has succeeded in restoring him to health. He states, that he had for many months suffered much from indigestion, attended with giddiness and general nervousness; and that he was at the time he commenced taking the tincture incapable of writing in consequence of nervous tremours. After taking the tincture one day, he experienced a considerable accession of strength, and in the course of a week his digestion was good and his nervous system perfectly steady. Several similar instances of the peculiar tonic virtues of this medicine have occurred in our own practice.

INTERMITTENT FEVER, TAPE-WORM, AND SCROFULA.

At a late meeting of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Paris, M. Merat related three cases of intermittent fever, which were cured by an infusion of the leaves of the holly-oak; and three cases of tape-worm, in which the powdered bark of the pomegranate root was successfully administered. He also stated, that the tincture of iodine had proved very beneficial in scrofula, at the hospital of St. Louis; and that the deut-iodide of mercury had succeeded in curing scrofulous diseases which had been pronounced incurable, in consequence of having resisted the usual remedies.

EXCESSIVE BLEEDING FROM LEECHES.

When the bleeding from the punctures of a leech cannot be stopped by the usual means, Dr. Lewenhart, of Berlin, recommends the edges to be approximated by means of a needle and fine silk. The silk being passed only through the cuticle occasions no pain, and as soon as the edges are brought into contact by two or three stitches, the bleeding ceases.

LITHOTOMY.

The editor of the *Lancette Français*, has published a case of lithotomy lately performed by M. Richarand, in which the patient, after many ineffectual attempts to extract the stone, was placed in bed. For two days the patient continued free from fever, and was apparently going on well; the following day M. Cloquet enlarged the opening and extracted the calculus with great facility. What say you, Mr. Bransby Cooper, to this case?

BLINDNESS FROM THICKENING OF THE EXTERNAL TUNIC OF THE EYE.

Professor Graffe has published a case of blindness from opacity of the conjunctive tunic of the eye, in which the removal of the thickened tunic

succeeded in restoring vision. The operation was thus performed: "After raising the membrane near the cornea by means of a forceps, he removed one half of it covering the cornea by the scissors, and as soon as the inflammation had subsided he excised the remaining half. Vision was speedily restored and the parts healed during the application of a solution of opium. The Professor states, that his motive for publishing this case is to show that the excision of the thickened membrane is not effectual unless performed part at a time, and at periods sufficiently near to prevent the membrane being reproduced, and with a precaution of not excising too much at a time, lest a dangerous degree of inflammation and irritation should supervene. An attempt was made about 28 years since to remove a thickened conjunctive tunic of the eye by a surgeon of Chepstow, but the first snip by the scissors was so extremely painful that the patient would not submit to a second.

THERAPEUTICS.

CERATE OF ACONITE.

M. Gurbourt, a French surgeon, has found the cerate of aconite to answer the purpose of blistering the skin as well as the plaster of cantharides, over which, he says, it has the very important advantage of not occasioning strangury. The editors of the *Lancette Français* have published the following receipt for making the cerate:—

Take of the Alcoholic Extract of Aconite (*Aconitum Cammarum*, Lat.; *Garrow*, French), one drachm;
Hogslard, nine ounces;
White Wax, one ounce.

Melt the wax and lard together, and, before they are cold, mix the alcoholic extract dissolved in a small quantity of alcohol, and then gently simmer them together, continuing the stirring, till the alcohol is nearly evaporated.

MOXON'S MAGNESIAN EFFERVESCENT APERIENT SALT.

We find, on further chemical examination of this article, that the proportion of acid is not sufficient to decompose the carbonates, and that it is consequently capable of neutralising an acid in the stomach. It is, therefore, an excellent mild aperient in cases of indigestion from morbid sensibility of the stomach, to which gouty invalids are particularly subject.

FOREIGN VEGETABLE EXTRACTS.

A chemist, who has lately returned from South America, has ascertained that the Peruvian Barks sent to Europe are much deteriorated by undergoing a slight degree of fermentation during the time they lie in heaps, previously to being exposed to the air for drying; and this, says he, accounts satisfactorily for the great inferiority of the extract made in this country from the dried bark to that made from the bark immediately after its separation. Most vegetable productions are considerably deteriorated by the usual modes of drying them. The extract of the dried bark of the round-leaf cornel, and also of the rhatany root, made in this country, is nearly insipid; whereas the former, made in North America, and the latter in South America, contain, in great perfection, the medicinal virtues of the articles, and a solution of either is very superior to the decoction or infusion of the dried substance.

BALSAM OF COPAIBA.

A chemist, of Philadelphia, recommends to the attention of the medical profession a preparation of balsam of copaiba, which he says is more agreeable

to the palate, and sets more pleasantly on the stomach, than the balsam. This preparation is made by simply dissipating a portion of the essential oil, in which its medicinal virtues principally reside; indeed, if it be deprived of its essential oil, it possesses no advantage over the common yellow resin.

EXTRACT OF THE WILD LETTUCE (*Lactuca Virosa*).

Dr. Brosius speaks in high terms of the peculiar sedative and diuretic properties of this extract, and has published several cases of dropsy of the chest, in which, in conjuction with the foxglove, it succeeded in restoring the patients to health. He administered it in the dose of four grains, with one of foxglove, every two hours. According to the doctor's account of the wild lettuce, it acts on the kidneys and absorbent system as a stimulant, and on membranes and muscles as a sedative.

RECTIFIED OIL OF TURPENTINE.

M. Martinet highly extols this article as a remedy for lumbago and sciatica. He states that he succeeded in curing fifty-eight patients afflicted with either lumbago or sciatica. Out of seventy-one he greatly relieved fifteen, by its external and internal use. He prescribed it, in combination with magnesia, in the form of a linctus, as the following:—

Take of Rectified Oil of Turpentine, half an ounce;
Subcarbonate of Magnesia, three drachms;
Honey, three ounces.—To be well mixed in a mortar.

Two tea-spoonsful to be taken, with a glass of water, daily, about two hours before dinner, and at bed-time.

As an external application, the rectified oil of turpentine was employed undiluted. We should prefer the naptha liniment, noticed in our late number.

MINERAL WATERS, BY THE REV. MR. COOKE, OF GREAT MALVERN.

Dr. MURRAY of Edinburgh was of opinion that the Bath and Cheltenham waters owe their efficacy to the muriate of lime. This salt has escaped the notice of the most able English and German chemists, in consequence of the changes which take place by evaporation during the process of analyzing, by producing the sulphate of lime, which is nearly insoluble.

The Harrowgate, the Cheltenham, and the Seltzer waters, contain the muriate of lime. The Pyrmont water contains iron, and is the pleasantest way of taking iron. The Seidlitz water principally contains the sulphate of magnesia (Epsom salt), and is the pleasantest way of taking this salt, the carbonic acid diminishing its bitter taste. Dr. Elliot, in his publication on the medicinal virtues of mineral waters, says, "The Seltzer water is of great use in the gravel, the stone, and other disorders of the kidneys and bladder, and also in gouty and rheumatic complaints. Mixed with asses milk it is of great use in consumptive cases, and other diseases of the lungs. In France it is generally taken, mixed with burgundy and claret, and in Germany and Holland with the Rhenish wines.

The pain of gout is probably caused by a deposit which obstructs the circulation of blood in the minute vessels. This deposit ultimately appears in chalk-stones, which is now supposed to be the lithate of lime. The Seltzer water contains both the muriatic and the carbonic acids, and both these acids having a stronger affinity to lime than the lithic acid, may remove the deposit. The German spa waters have been successfully imitated at Brighton and Liverpool, and lately at Great Malvern, which from the purity of its water, has an important advantage over those places.

MISCELLANEOUS.

LIBELLING.

One of the most disgusting and unfounded attempts to assassinate private character which we have ever witnessed has lately been inserted in a medical journal, which, forsooth, occasionally takes upon its immaculate self to reprobate "that magazine of slander, the Morning Journal." The author, a Mr. Pickthorn, whose name is totally unknown to the medical world, however much it may be honoured by his own apprentices, and by certain shopkeepers and tradesmen, in the neighbourhood of Russell-square, has made against Dr. Harrison,—a man as remarkable for the extent of his acquirements and talents, as for his great reputation, and the purity of his actions,—some statements, so grossly erroneous, that we shall not sully our pages by repeating them; and we think Dr. Harrison would have done well to have avoided giving them even a flat contradiction, and to have left them to that contempt and disgust to which all honourable minds must infalliby consign them.

One word of caution we think it right however to address to this Mr. Pickthorn. Should he again use the stiletto against private character, we shall drag him before the tribunal of public opinion; and by a comparison of the history of his life and actions, and, in particular, in connexion with the patient and inmate of his house, who has helped him to make these disgusting charges, with that of the gentleman against whom they have been fabricated, we shall hold him up in a light which few men would consider to be either to their credit or flattering to their vanity.

BREAD.

Mr. WAKLEY has published the following "formula of the London bakers" for making *white* bread on an anonymous authority:

Take of Wheat Flour, 375 pounds;
Potatoes, 15 pounds;
Salt, 4 pounds;
Alum, 1 pound.

According to this formula, says the correspondent, every quartern loaf contains a drachm of alum, and the person who eats a pound of the bread takes 105 grains of alum in the course of a week; a quantity which, in his opinion, by occasioning constipation, disordering the head, &c., is capable of laying the foundation of many constitutional diseases, and thereby acts as a slow poison.

We believe the bakers, who use alum, also employ the subcarbonate of potass, which neutralises the excess of sulphuric acid of the alum, and the disengagement of the carbonic acid gas, renders the bread lighter. Now we would ask Mr. Wakley, as professional men, whether bread is in any respect deteriorated, as an article of diet, by such additions? The constipating effect of the alum is counteracted by the addition of the subcarbonate of potass; and by the general disengagement of carbonic acid gas, the particles of the flour are more minutely divided, and consequently rendered more nutritious. The sulphate of potass, with the sulphate of alumine, is, in our opinion, as salubrious in bread as common salt, and for invalids, from weakness of indigestion, we should give it a preference. The sulphate of alumine is an excellent tonic medicine. The public will have white light bread, and the bakers are really under the necessity of making it to please their customers; and so long as they do not use articles injurious to health, we shall not complain of them. If the public were to follow their example, in using alum and subcarbonate of

potass, the bread would be much more wholesome than the heavy bread termed home-made, which is more fit for pigs than for digestion in the human stomach.

GREAT MALVERN.

We have so frequently adverted to the salubrity of the air and delightful scenery of Great Malvern, and pointed out the great advantages resulting from them to invalids residing there, that we should not again introduce the subject, were it not that the chalybeate spring, lately discovered, deserves further notice. We have met with several cases of indigestion, attended with general nervous excitability and strong dropsical predisposition, and also with some of incipient consumption, which were cured by taking a small tumbler of it two or three times a-day. The native chalybeate waters, which have been of most service, are those which contain the proto-salts. The rapidity with which they are decomposed, by a slight exposure to the atmosphere, renders it necessary that they should be drank fresh from the well. The Malvern chalybeate water, being chiefly impregnated with the proto-carbonate of iron, the most delicate and most readily decomposed of all the other saline combinations of iron, the necessity of taking it fresh from the spring is obvious. Since we noticed Mr. Addison's valuable *Practical Treatise on the Waters, &c. of Great Malvern*, a pump-room has been built for the convenience of taking it. Here invalids know what they are swallowing. without being subject to the humbug and imposition which have been but too successfully practised in other wateriug places, or to drinking a saline water poisoned by being warmed in a *copper* vessel. The Malvern chalybeate has a strong and peculiar chalybeate smell, and the taste has been thought by many to be similar to that of Tunbridge.

THE ARTICHOKE.

An effectual mode of increasing the size of the artichoke is to split the stem into four at the base of the receptacle, and introduce two small sticks in the form of a cross. Mr. Brande says, this operation has long been practised in the south of France, and for some years past in the neighbourhood of Brussels. It should not be carried into effect till the stem has attained its full height.

SPURIOUS CHAMPAGNE, &c.

A company of Frenchmen has contracted with some farmers in Herefordshire for a considerable quantity of the fresh juice of certain pears, which is to be sent to them in London immediately after it has been expressed, or before fermentation has commenced. With the recently expressed juice they made last year an excellent brisk wine, resembling the finest sparkling champagne; and we are told that the speculation was so productive, that they have resolved considerably to extend their manufactory.

The French chemists which formed a company in London about four years since, for the purpose of manufacturing the "best Cognac brandy" from potatoes, entirely failed to bring it to any thing like perfection. The experiment, however, cost two Englishmen, whom they were so kind as to permit to add some thousands to their annual income by joining them, upwards of twenty thousand pounds!!! So much for the credulity of John Bull.

SUGAR PLUMS.

Several cases of poisoning, by coloured sugar-plums, have been published in the foreign journals. We find the cromate of lead, a powerful poison, is used by some confectioners in London as a yellow colour, and prussiate of iron as a blue.

GENERAL REMARKS on WINES, &c. by Dr. ROBINSON.

(Continued from page 624.)

WINES.

Many volumes have been published on the varieties of wine, and the writers on diet make a most imposing display of scientific acquaintance with their constituent principles, and salubrious or insalubrious qualities. I have devoted much time to the examination and effects of the various wines that are principally drank in America and England, and the results are so few, and differ so little from each other, that an account of them may be given as satisfactorily to a person of common sense in a few pages as in a large volume. The salubrity of a wine must greatly depend on its having been properly fermented, so as to decompose nearly the whole of the saccharine matter of the juice of the fruit. When the saccharine matter is considerable, or, in other words, the juice very rich, the fermentative process should be continued for a longer time than when there is a deficiency of saccharine matter; and the strength of the wine, which depends on the quantity of the spirituous principle, will of course be in proportion to the richness of the juice. If a wine has not been properly fermented, it will rapidly advance into the acetous fermentation in the stomach; and such wines are much more unwholesome than wines that have a little advanced into the acetous stage, so as to be acid, or what is generally termed *pricked;* hence the insalubrity of home-made wines, which being imperfectly fermented in America and England, contain much sugary matter, in consequence of the climates being unfavourable for the process of fermentation. Every wine is not, however, to be condemned as insalubrious because it is sweet; for the saccharine matter of some grapes seems to be of so firm a nature as part of it to resist the process of fermentation, even in a climate favourable for it; and such wine, with elderly or weakly people, I have uniformly found to agree. Of this class are calcavella and muscat, both of which contain a proper proportion of spirit. A distinction should be made between the native acid of the grape and the acid which is the consequence of the process having run into the acetous fermentation, both of which I consider wholesome. All *new* wine containing more or less saccharine matter, no wine is fit for use until it has been kept well secured in a close vessel, that it may become in a sound vinous state. By being kept closely corked, the tartaric acid, which is apt to disorder the stomach or intestines, is deposited or decomposed. It is common for manufacturers of wine to add a quantity of brandy to their wines for exportation, with the view of preserving them in a vinous state on the voyage; by this practice, in my opinion, wines are rendered more salubrious for those elderly people who take it, as it ought to be taken, merely to warm the stomach, but, to the inebriate, the addition renders it more injurious.

Some wines not only differ in degree of soundness, and in the quantity of the spirit, but also in the astringent principle. Some wines are entirely free from this principle, as sherry, madeira, teneriffe, and indeed all the white wines with which I am acquainted; and all the red wines, more or less, contain it. The white wines are

therefore stimulant only, but the red wines are both stimulant and astringent; and on this account are preferred by some medical men to the white wines, in cases of debility. The red wine which is most generally used in England is port wine, which contains a greater proportion of the spirituous and astringent principle than any other red wine; but I have, even in cases of debility, generally found it not to agree with the stomach so well as a sound white wine, often becoming acid. The fact is, the astringent principle is not derived *entirely* from the grape; for the merchants add both logwood and rhatany root to increase its astringency, and also a quantity of spirit to preserve it on the voyage to England, and to please the English palate. The red wines of Spain, of France, and the Cape, are all more or less astringent, and, containing tartaric acid, are too cold, when new, for the stomachs of elderly or debilitated subjects.

Champagne contains very little spirit, but on account of the quantity of fixed air that is disengaged from it in the stomach, a glass or two generally agrees with elderly or weakly subjects.

MALT LIQUORS.

The remarks I have made on fermentation in the preceding article equally apply to the malt liquors, which are, in fact, the wine of malt, preserved by the bitter principle and aroma of the hop. The salubrity of all malt liquors depends greatly on their having been properly fermented, and properly impregnated with the bitter principle and essential oil of the hop, to preserve them in a vinous state. They require to be kept closely bunged for some weeks after they have been what is termed worked, to get into a proper vinous state, and to become fine. New malt liquor, like new wine of the grape, is very apt to run into the acetous fermentation, even in the stomach of a healthy person, in consequence, as I have observed in the preceding article, of the vinous stage not having been completed. On this account it is more unwholesome than when it is become acid; for certainly vinegar, which in a small quantity acts as a stomachic, does not in a greater quantity so much disturb digestion as the fermentation of new beer, and its conversion into vinegar in the stomach. I therefore prefer what is termed *stale* beer to *new* beer. The practice of bottling beer when the fermentation is complete is a good one; not only because the fixed air, which is disengaged from it in the stomach, acts beneficially, but because when the quantity in a cask is much reduced, the beer becomes flat, and consequently not so refreshing to weakly stomachs as when fresh. Porter is more wholesome than ale, on account of not containing so much mucilage and saccharine matter, the two latter being considerably diminished in consequence of the malt having been highly dried. Much has been said against the malt liquor of brewers, and in favour of the home-brewed. I certainly have no reason to suppose that public brewers do make use of any other article than malt and hops in making malt liquors; but of this I am certain, that the malt liquors of brewers are much better fermented than the home-brewed, in consequence of the great quantity which is fermented at one time. Of the home-brewed, I never met with any that did not contain much saccharine matter and mucilage, from imperfect fermentation. Such ale oppresses the stomach, and those who drink it are

generally much troubled with flatulence. In the choice of malt liquors, as well as of wines, every person should be guided by habit and by peculiarities of the stomach. The ale made in America and Scotland is better fermented than that made in England or the Continent. The Burton ale, which is much drank in England, is too much charged with mucilage and saccharine matter to be wholesome; and I have generally observed that those who continued to take it regularly, generally die, often at the age of forty, of diseased bowels or brain.

SPIRITS.

An opinion generally prevails among medical men, that the alcohol obtained from all wines does not chemically differ, and therefore it is of no consequence from what wine a spirit is obtained, so that it be pure. This idea I can say, from numerous experiments, to be erroneous. The alcohols of different wines differ in specific gravity, and in rawness, volatility, and pungency. The spirit from malt is very coarse and stimulating, and specifically heavier than any other spirit with which I am acquainted. It acts powerfully in corrugating the animal fibre; and when taken into the stomach, disorders the brain and nervous system. Unwholesome as this spirit decidedly is, it is much drank, in one form and another, in America, England, Ireland, and Scotland. In the two latter countries, when flavoured with the burnt articles employed in rectifying it, it is sold under the name of whisky, which is a slow poison. Almost all the cordials of America and England are made with it, and also the spirit flavoured with juniper, termed gin. The spirit of the rice (arrack) is nearly of the same specific gravity as the malt spirit, but although apparently milder, it acts more injuriously on the brain and nervous system; and it has been observed that those who drink freely of it are short lived. The effect of arrack punch on the brain is well known.

The spirit of the sugar-cane (rum) is more mild than that of malt, but its specific gravity is less. It acts in general injuriously on the stomach, and, what is particularly worthy of notice as peculiar to it, it is very apt to become sour in the stomach, and to disorder the whole system when taken in excess.

The spirit of mead (fermented honey) is the mildest and most wholesome spirit I know. It is more volatile and specifically lighter than any of the spirits in common use.

The spirit of the wine of grapes, termed brandy, is somewhat lighter than whisky or rum, and less stimulating. It is not so mild as the spirit of mead, but it generally agrees as well with the stomach, and does not disorder the head like arrack, rum, or whisky. It often succeeds in allaying irritation or spasms in the stomach more speedily than any other spirit or stimulant.

The spirits of cider and perry are lighter and less stimulating than whisky or rum, and are grateful to the stomach, and very rarely disturb the brain and nervous system; and it has been observed, that intoxication produced by them is seldom followed by headache or disorder of the stomach. In many parts of America this spirit is much drank, and was formerly so in the cider counties of England, when the farmers were at liberty to distil the dregs of their cider and perry.

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MEDICAL BIOGRAPHY.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE, F.R.S.

Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's and Bethlem Hospitals, Lecturer on Surgery, &c. &c.

THE numerous complimentary letters we have received from members of the profession, as well as private individuals, for the sketch of Sir Astley Cooper we gave in our last Number, embolden us to continue our living biography, and to publish to the world an account, drawn on the basis of impartiality, of him who, in science, ranks next in practice and literature to that great man. Before entering on the life of Mr. Lawrence, we cannot help expressing how grateful and agreeable we feel the task to be; for we know that we shall have much to commend, little to criticise, and nothing to reprobate in his long and distinguished career. When the historian has to draw a line of distinction between a mass of good and a mass of evil, and still more when the latter preponderates, his task becomes one of a very difficult and disagreeable nature; but in the life of the philosopher, an account of which we are now to lay before our readers, we have only to record talents of the highest kind, directed to the cultivation of the noblest of sciences, and encircled with a goodness of heart and a steadiness of purpose, which never allowed them to be misapplied, and kept them continually advancing in the road of improvement.

The county of Gloucester has the honour of claiming William Lawrence as one of her sons. His father was a surgeon of celebrity, and his family very respectable. From his early infancy he gave proofs of a superior mind, and evinced a talent for perception, and avidity for the acquirement of knowledge, which have shone eminently conspicuous in his after life. These qualities his parents did not fail to perceive, and accordingly cultivated them to the best of their power, by affording him every facility in attaining what are generally supposed to be the necessary rudiments of science. He was placed at a public school, where he rapidly acquired an acquaintance with the classics, and all the elementary pursuits of knowledge. Here his superiority of mind was soon apparent to his masters and to his youthful associates. Having concluded his preliminary studies, and his mind being well prepared and moulded for the acquirement of medical science, for which, from his boyhood, he showed an inclination, he was sent to the metropolis, and was bound apprentice to Mr. Abernethy, who was then at the zenith of his reputation, and, of course, entered as a pupil at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. He now applied himself to the study of his profession, to which he had evinced an early inclination, with a degree of ardour and assiduity seldom exhibited by youths of his tender years. With a mind already so well endowed and prepared as his, it is not wonderful that he made a most rapid advancement. Mr. Abernethy, who never failed to discover and appreciate early talent, paid great attention to him, and directed his mind principally to the pursuit of anatomical knowledge—the basis of medical science. In the course of two or three years he became an admirable anatomist and physiologist; and so highly did Mr. Abernethy then esteem him, that he appointed him Demonstrator of Anatomy. To this well-placed partiality, and to this appointment, he is indebted for his subsequent eminence and success. The

seeds of future distinction are more frequently sown in early life than is generally imagined; and so it was with Mr. Lawrence, whose anatomical and physiological acquirements procured for him, before the expiration of his apprenticeship, an appointment which is only the prelude to a surgeoncy at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, one of the greatest institutions of the kind in the metropolis, and which never fails to lead the man of talent to the highest reputation and public confidence.

The road of advancement being thus laid open to Mr. Lawrence, ambition soon spurred him to greater exertion. He prosecuted his anatomical and surgical studies with extraordinary vigour. His demonstrations became already remarkable for the extent of knowledge they displayed, and for the clearness and elegance of language in which they were couched. His reputation among the pupils at St. Bartholomew's Hospital was at this time very great, and his gentlemanly deportment and kindness of heart procured him their friendship, as his talents had already their admiration. As an anatomist, his knowledge soon made him known to the profession, and two years before the expiration of his apprenticeship, he was applied to by the conductors of *Rees's Cyclopædia* to furnish them with the anatomical and surgical articles for that great work, which he continued to give to its conclusion. These articles display a profound anatomical knowledge, and an acquaintance with the literature of all countries and ages on the subject, which could have only been acquired, at his early period of life, by the most intense mental labour. They are decidedly the best articles of the kind in the English language. Mr. Lawrence continued as a demonstrator of anatomy at St. Bartholomew's Hospital for several years after the period of his apprenticeship. He then settled as a surgeon in the metropolis; and Mr. Abernethy continued to bestow on him his patronage.

His first publication was a book on ruptures, which is decidedly the best that has appeared on that subject. He has not, it is true, like Sir Astley Cooper, had the honour of making many anatomical discoveries, and pointing out new methods of operating and of cure; yet the volume, from the knowledge which it contains, and the correctness of the views and of its criticism, has been more useful to the student and the surgeon than any other. Sir Astley's was the first on the subject of hernia, and, containing his own views of the anatomy and of the operations, it is a splendid work, and displays more original talent than that of Mr. Lawrence; still, the latter, from having embodied the opinions of other surgeons, and his knowledge acquired since the publication of Sir Astley's, is more complete, and better adapted for the surgeon and student. It is the result of a mind superiorly stored with knowledge, and eminently qualified with judgment—it is the text-book of all medical men, whether in their studies or their practice, and has been translated into the languages of all countries where the science of surgery is cultivated. The publication of this volume raised Mr. Lawrence high in the estimation of all practical surgeons. Mr. Lawrence was soon after this period appointed Assistant Surgeon at St. Bartholomew's Hospital; and, after the death of Mr. Saunders, Surgeon to the London Ophthalmic Institution. In the early part of his life he published a translation of Blumenbach's *Comparative Anatomy*, with notes, which has had a most extensive sale; the best criterion of the value of all scientific productions. He has also published some *Introductory Lectures on Comparative Anatomy, and the Zoology of Man*, which have been the subject of much unjust censure, by a class of men, who, unable to cope with the talents of Mr. Lawrence, have laid hold of certain obscure passages in this book, to brand him with the name of a Materialist. We have perused attentively this work, and we can safely *affirm, that* no one, whose mind was not grossly perverted, could find in it

any thing which savours that wretched doctrine. The truth is, Mr. Lawrence, like other great men, has, in his progress, acquired the envy and malice of several individuals who, destitute of talent and knowledge, have attempted to stain with the most odious and malicious imputations, one of the fairest characters which the present age has produced. We have known Mr. Lawrence in private as well as public life; we are acquainted with many of his actions which were never intended to meet the public eye, and we can affirm, without the fear of contradiction from any but the basest of men, that a better or more truly religious man, not in cant but in deed, does not exist in this metropolis. The enemies of Mr. Lawrence, while giving way to the most criminal of passions, have not hesitated to add hypocrisy to their other vices, and have, under the mask of religion, attempted to blast the fair character of a man, whose whole life has been spent for the benefit of science and the good of mankind.

In treating of the subject of the zoology of man, it is impossible for any author not to give some of the opinions which have been advanced in regard to materialism; and in doing this, although he has most distinctly dissented from them, attempts have been made to overwhelm him with the charge of materialism. The cloud, however, which the prejudices and criminal passions of a herd raised over the head of a truly good man has been dispelled, like mist before the sun, and has left his character all the brighter for the base attempt.

Few men have cultivated their minds more than Mr. Lawrence. In addition to an acquaintance with all the sciences, he adds an intimate knowledge of the European languages; and in going the round of his hospital, the practice of which foreigners frequently attend, we have heard him address them in four or five languages. Mr. Lawrence's high reputation for knowledge and acquirements, and for judgment and discrimination in public practice, and for experience derived from the many high surgical situations he has held, combined with his gentlemanly and pleasing address, could not fail to render him a favourite with the public, and, in difficult cases, with his professional brethren. He has been gradually rising in practice till he is now, with the exception of Sir Astley Cooper, considered the first practical and scientific surgeon in the metropolis. His situation as Surgeon to the London Ophthalmic Institution has procured him much notice as an oculist, and his *Lectures on Diseases of the Eye*, (like the admirable work of his friend Mr. Wardrop,) have had the effect of disseminating a knowledge of these complaints among all branches of the medical profession. Mr. Lawrence's talents have procured for him many honorary situations; he was appointed Professor of Anatomy and Surgery to the Royal College of Surgeons, and he is a member of almost every learned and scientific body in Europe.

In practical surgery, Mr. Lawrence has introduced several valuable improvements. He brought into notice the use of the silk ligature in tying arteries, and of making incisions for the cure of phlegmonous erysipelas. His treatment of sloughing syphilis, which has been denominated the soothing plan, *viz.* by bleeding and opium, is one of the greatest improvements in medical surgery. His treatment of diseases of the eye is also admirable, and as simple as it is efficacious, and is not tinctured with that quackery which disgraces some of the oculists of the metropolis. As a medical surgeon, he is greatly admired; and to have a superior knowledge of the treatment of disease is certainly infinitely more to be praised than to be a mere operator. Operations, it has been well observed, are the disgrace of surgery; and the axiom, that it is better to prevent than cure, as applied to operative practice, is too just to require any comment. Mr. Lawrence, however, possesses great

powers as an operative surgeon; few possessing more neatness, coolness and celerity in using the knife, and none can boast a greater judgment in the application of it. In amputations he is exceedingly neat, and as a lithotomist he has been one of the most successful in the metropolis. He invariably employs Blizard's knife in this operation. On the resignation of Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Lawrence was appointed Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, a situation which affords him an annual income of about a thousand pounds; and after a most disgraceful attempt to exclude him from lecturing, he has been lately appointed Lecturer on Surgery at this great school. Nothing has shown more completely the corrupt system on which the hospitals of this metropolis have been conducted, than the exposé which took place, when an attempt was made to exclude Mr. Lawrence, who is universally allowed to be the best lecturer on surgery in this country, from the situation, merely that Mr. Abernethy might still continue to reap a portion of the emoluments, by putting a person into the chair with whom he had a *private bond*, and who was as little qualified for the place as Mr. Lawrence is eminently calculated to adorn it. Mr. Lawrence will give the ensuing winter lectures on surgery at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and from the *programme* which has been published, we have no doubt but they will be the best ever delivered in that school.

Mr. Lawrence has been also lately admitted into the council of the College of Surgeons, and as a specimen of the miserable depth of folly to which envy or prejudice will lead some men, on his nomination, one Robert Keate, a member of the body, offered to resign!! This of course was of as little consequence to the council as it was to Mr. Lawrence, who was accordingly elected.

Like Sir Astley Cooper, Mr. Lawrence has the talent of converting all who approach him into his friends; not, like Sir Astley, from his courtly manners and address, but from a certain pleasantness of expression which betrays a heart as richly endowed with good qualities, as his understanding is known to be of the first kind. Few men in the medical profession of the least celebrity are not his firm friends; and on the continent of Europe, his extensive acquaintance with the foreign languages and literature have long rendered him famous. In his train, when going round St. Bartholomew's Hospital, are to be seen all the medical foreigners who, from curiosity or the desire of improvement, visit this country; and the unmeasured encomiums they bestow on him show how highly they estimate his talents and rare acquirements.

With regard to Mr. Lawrence's medical politics, we have only to say, that they do not disgrace either his mind or heart; they are in the highest degree liberal. He has seized every opportunity of exposing the iniquitous monopoly of "The Fellows of all the collateral Lights and Sciences," of the College of Surgeons, and of the disgraceful system on which the hospitals of the metropolis have been so long conducted, a system which is in the highest degree degrading to a free and great country.

Of Mr. Lawrence's liberality of feeling and sentiment, nothing can afford a more striking example than his conduct at the time the great mass of the profession, oppressed for many years by the two miserable oligarchies, the heads of the surgeons and physicians, as they style themselves, endeavoured to throw off the ignominious and illegal yoke, which had been imposed on the country at a time when true medical science did not exist, and which has since been upheld by a selfish and unprincipled feud, for their own disgusting gain, and to the extinction of knowledge, and the ruin of the great mass of medical men. When this nearly universal feeling of reform was awakened in the minds of the profession,—and here we are in justice bound to state,

that it was called into existence, and spurred on to action, almost solely by the indefatigable talents of Mr. Wakley, Mr. Lawrence, standing as he did nearly at the summit of the profession, came forward and took the chair at the memorable meetings, held at the Freemasons' Tavern, to devise the means for abrogating the charter granted to the College of Surgeons, and procuring a rational reform in the management of that body. The speeches which Mr. Lawrence made will not be easily forgotten by those who had the good fortune to hear them. They are some of the finest specimens of oratory which were ever addressed to a popular assembly; combining, with the keenest wit and satire, and elegance of diction and of delivery, arguments without number, overwhelming in force, and applied with admirable tact and judgment, which at once captivated and convinced the minds of his hearers, and created an extraordinary sensation among all medical men throughout the British empire. Mr. Wakley, it is true, stirred up the just commotion and has applied, since he became a public man, his talents to accomplish the purpose. He is therefore entitled to the first gratitude of the profession; but when the sacrifices of friends and private interest, which Mr. Lawrence made in thus boldly advocating the rights of what are called *the lower orders of the profession* are considered, too much praise cannot be bestowed on his noble, enlightened, and disinterested conduct on this occasion. Since his election into the council, his enemies have reported that he is no longer the friend of reform; but this we suspect is a rumour, originating in malice. For ourselves, we do not believe it; and as the council meetings are, like those of malefactors and pick-pockets, secret, their conduct and resolutions are known only to themselves. When the robbery out of doors takes place, which is too often the result, it is but fair to suppose that he who has all along been the steady advocate of justice and reform, would protest against the iniquity when in agitation. The "daring burglary" might nevertheless be perpetrated by his hardened associates.

Time however will, no doubt, falsify the assertions, which, if true, would blacken a character, the progress of which has hitherto been marked by candour and liberality.

Such is an account of the history of Mr. Lawrence from his youth to the present period, when we see him arrived at the summit of his profession, an elevation obtained solely by merit and unaided by the hypocrisy and intrigue which disgrace some of his contemporaries. Long may he live to adorn his distinguished eminence, and to cultivate and improve medical science!

In our next number we intend to give a sketch of the life and writings of Dr. Paris, one of the Fellows of "all the collateral Lights of Natural Philosophy!!"

MEDICAL LITERATURE.

ACADEMICAL EXAMINATIONS ON THE PRACTICE OF SURGERY.

By W. Gordon, of Hull, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.

The volume under the above title contains a complete *exposé* of the principles of surgical science, as practised by the most approved and experienced surgeons of the present day, in this country, and is well suited for the object it has in view, viz. to convey, in a concise and familiar way, a knowledge of this invaluable part of the healing art. The author appears to have spared no trouble in consulting the voluminous works of preceding and contemporary writers; and he has shown very considerable ability in selecting and

condensing their information, and, above all, in dressing it in language calculated to assist the memory of his readers. As a text-book for students, we cannot praise it too highly, and as a work of reference, and pocket companion to practitioners, we think it deserves to be well noticed. It would be out of place for us to present to our readers an analysis of its contents. We may however observe, that we have perused the directions and descriptions given under the heads of hernia, amputation, ligature of arteries, and dislocations, with much gratification, "*et non sine fructu.*" The whole work is excellently finished, and must have been the result of considerable reflection, as well as mental labour. We cannot recommend it too highly to all surgical pupils, and to those practitioners whose intellects are not so highly endowed, as to enable them to carry a surgical dictionary in their memory.

PRACTICAL REMARKS ON INCIDENTAL DISEASES, &c., BY DR. KINGLAKE, OF TAUNTON.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 677.)

Inflammation of the membranous covering of the Abdominal Viscera, (Peritonitis.)

This is a disease not less insidious in its accession than rapid and destructive in its progress. Commencing with symptoms of slight pain in the various parts of the abdominal cavity, with more or less of general tension, it incessantly advances to a most serious, and often insuperable state of inflammatory violence.

The extent of the ailment is so great, and the slender fabric in which it exists so susceptible of irreparable mischief, that imminent danger of its terminating mortally may be justly apprehended. It is one of the diseases in which the most efficient interposition of medical aid is urgently required. To leave it to a natural course, is to incur the utmost risk of an unfavourable issue; it therefore should, at the onset, be resisted by means the most likely to prove availing.

Blood should be abstracted every eight hours, to the extent of about sixteen ounces, until arterial langour be produced, and pressure can be borne with the hand over every part of the abdomen, without the least sense of pain being experienced from it. After this benefit has been obtained, it would probably be advanced and secured by the daily application, in two or three instances, of a dozen leeches over the abdomen, followed by a warm linseed flour poultice thickly spread on linen cloth over the leech bites. This should be renewed every three hours, both to promote sanguineous effusion from the orifices made by the leeches, and to soothe by the sedative influence of the congenial temperature which it affords.

Tartarized antimony in doses of a quarter of a grain may be given every four hours, with a view to its lowering and anti-inflammant efficacy. The bowels may be kept open by castor oil taken in milk once or twice a-day, as may be necessary, and the same articles may be occasionally used clysterwise. The more active aperients should be avoided, as likely to exert a stimulating effect that might aggravate the existing peritoneal excitement.

In those cases, adhesive and suppurative inflammation, together with positive sphacelus, would be the probable results of protracted disease; it should therefore be combated at the commencement, not with merely formal and half-measures, but by such as would be equal to the emergency of the occasion, and without which there could be no reasonable prospect of recovery. Prompt efficiency procuring direct and continued amendment is indispensably necessary, and without this immediate and advancing benefit, the event is always precarious and commonly fatal.

Dyspeptic Repletion, Flatulence, and Acidity.

These morbid states are the familiar and besetting ailments of immoderate eating and drinking, together with sedentary inaction. They arise from acetous fermentation occurring in the substances taken for aliment, instead of the chylous conversion that would result from an unperverted course of nutritive digestion.

This complicated evil is liable to ensue in every instance in which the stomach is surcharged with alimentary materials. The mode of remedy is not less simple than efficacious, and consists in reducing to at least one half, the quantity of food that has occasioned the undigesting disturbance, in using personal exercise sufficient to determine freely to the skin, evinced by inducing moderate perspiration at least twice a-day, abstaining from fermented liquids, diluting in common with plain water, briskly rubbing the whole surface of the abdomen, especially the regions of the stomach and liver, every morning and night with a flesh-brush, during fifteen minutes at each time, and keeping the bowels soluble by occasionally taking one dram of calcined magnesia in a tea-cupful of milk.

An unvaried prosecution of this treatment during one month, will probably subdue every dyspeptic symptom, and fully restore the digestive process to its most healthful efficiency.

Inflammation of the Kidneys.

This disease should be overcome with all possible expedition, to obviate its terminating in suppuration, to which there seems to be a strong tendency. During the first twenty-four hours, about sixteen ounces of blood should be abstracted every six hours, the warm-bath should be used every four hours, continuing in it an hour at each time; the bowels should be freely moved with castor oil, and aqueous infusions of linseed, gum-arabic, and marsh-mallow root, should be copiously drank. As long as any pain is experienced in the region of the kidneys, a dozen of leeches should be applied to the loins twice a-day, and after their removal a large warm linseed flour poultice should be laid over the leeched parts, with a view to promote a further effusion of blood, and also by the genial influence of local warmth to assist in allaying the existing irritation.

It is of great importance in recent inflammation to divert the circulating fluids to the cutaneous surface, by repeated and protracted warm bathing. It powerfully relieves, by causing a large afflux of those fluids to the skin, and thus vicariously and beneficially discharging through its exhalation a portion of the superfluous water of the blood, which would otherwise require to be removed by the inflamed kidneys. The system should also, during the continuance of inflammatory pain, be constantly kept under the sedative influence of nauseating doses of tartarized antimony.

If inflammatory affections of the kidneys be not completely subdued, they are apt to assume a sub-acute form, and without occasioning much pain, or other inconvenience, to run into suppurative and other structural derangements, in a manner equally insidious and irreparable. Numerous instances are on record of persons dying of suppurated and wasted, as well as of indurated and enlarged kidneys, as the destructive result of either unsuspected or unremedied inflammation.

Iodine.

It has been proposed to administer this powerful medicinal agent as a probable remedy in pulmonary consumption. The proposition appears to be rested on the inadequacy of all other known means of cure, which seems to imply in the speculation of its advocates that more benefit may be reasonably expected in this forlorn malady, from the efficacy of this active article, than

from any other that has been hitherto subjected to trial. *Anceps remedium melius quam nullum*, is a well-founded maxim, but it does not go the length of authorising a remedial experiment, that would be attended with imminent risk.

It is well known that iodine exerts an influence on the lymphatic or absorbent system that progressively diminishes, and finally disperses glandular enlargements of large dimensions. Numerous instances of long standing bronchoceles of considerable bulk having been pervaded and ultimately removed by its agency, attest its discutient power. But the question is, can an agent of such active properties have its power safely directed to, and even concentrated on the pulmonary structure? If under its action, enlarged and obstructed glands should be reduced and rendered pervious, curative relief might be afforded; but if instead of such a salutary result, these distempered enlargements should be inflamed to the extent of inducing suppuration, an abscess and consequent ulceration would be substituted for the previous tumid hardness. The exchange, in reference to the event, may be no serious injury, but it would be difficult to regard it as a positive benefit, much less as a curative effect of the proposed remedy. Cases have occurred in which the external use of the hydrodate of potass in the mammary structure has so extenuated the substance, as to leave the breast without any discernible projection. If such agency be safe in the external glands, will it be equally so in those situated in the parenchymatous substance of the lungs? An instance recently occurred to the writer, in which the tincture of iodine, taken in doses of thirty drops, three times a-day, produced phlegmonous inflammation in one of the breasts, which terminated in suppuration, and certainly in the removal of the morbid induration for which the remedy was used. This effect, though curative in the external situation in which it took place, would probably have been destructive of life had it obtained in either the lungs, liver, pancreas, mesentery, or kidneys.

In pulmonary consumption of the tubercular kind, much of the discutient efficacy of iodine is required, but the anxious consideration is, can it be securely excited in the glandular structure of the diseased organ? In producing a strong impression and great change in the disease, will it eradicate the morbid condition, or rather will it not irreparably aggravate it?

If iodine be tried at all in pulmonary consumption, it perhaps ought to be in doses not exceeding five drops three times a-day, and its effect should be closely watched, so as to prevent the system from being so largely saturated with it as to prove noxious rather than beneficial. If nausea, headache, or a sense of general tremor, usually denominated nervousness, should ensue its use, it should be suspended until those indications of inordinate effect may cease, when it may be resumed with similar caution.

It is conceivable that with this guarded regulation it may be advantageously taken, and in this contemplation of its possible efficacy, it would seem entitled to confident trial. The writer has had some experience of its employ in pulmonary consumption in the measured administration here suggested, but not sufficient to enable him to give a correct report of its remedial virtue.

Convalescence.

The subsiding of disease, and the gradual renewal of health, is a condition critically circumstanced and often nicely balanced. The vital power, in all its organic relations and functional properties, has been distempered and agitated by morbid excitement. In emerging from this unhealthy state, it possesses infirmities and susceptibilities that subject it to a ready relapse of disease. It should be kept in mind, that whatever might have been the

natural stamina, the habitual tone, and established firmness of the constitutional health, the whole has been so undermined, enfeebled, and enervated by the noxious agency of disease, as to have rendered the living principle morbidly irritable and easily impressible by slight causes of disease.

The tone of health is an obstacle to disease that is not surmounted without difficulty; but when it has been overthrown, there is no immunity from reiterated affection until it be fully restored. The most promising advancement in recovery is often checked and thrown back by both dietetic and medicinal mismanagement. To attempt to introduce into the system, during the convalescing process, more nutriment than either the digestive organs could convert, or the exigencies of general sustenance may demand, would be to produce hurtful oppression and excitement. Numerous are the instances of a salutary train of convalescence being mortally interrupted by burthening the stomach with indigestible quantities of alimentary substances.

Recovery from disease is usually accompanied with an irritable condition, that strongly disposes to renewed affection. This morbid propensity should be as effectually counteracted as possible by abstaining from whatever may occasion hurtful excitement. The vital sympathies of the animal economy have their chief source and concentration in the stomach. Its healthy state, therefore, is essential to the prevention and removal of most of the diseases incident to human nature.

Health may generally be preserved by due attention to the digestive function of the stomach and intestines; and when disease has arisen, and is happily in the wane of its existence, its progressive and complete removal will be best accomplished by limiting the nutriment in quantity as well as quality, in such a way as will at once secure against stomachic oppression and inordinate arterial excitement, until the tone of health shall have acquired sufficient ascendancy over the morbid susceptibilities resulting from protracted disease. The liability to recurring disorder will require the utmost precaution in the withholding whatever would tend to reproduce complaint. An unguarded indulgence in eating and drinking is fraught with imminent danger, and has often actually reversed the advancing improvement of convalescents, and hurried them to an untimely grave.

After vital power has been long under the dominion of diseased influence, its healthy state should not only be restored but securely established before unrestrained freedom of diet could be safely admitted. Until then, the alimentary articles should consist of small quantities at a time of cow's milk, the animal broths, the yelk of an egg, isinglass jelly, farinaceous puddings, &c.; and if solid flesh be taken, it should not exceed three ounces of either mutton, beef, or fowl, in the course of twenty-four hours. The common drink should be either plain water, or slightly aromatised with ginger.

Uniformly pursuing this course of digestible and unoppressive nourishment during one month after the cessation of active disease, whether febrile, inflammatory, or congestive, will most likely renovate the general strength, and replenish the vascular system without producing either originally or sympathetically, inordinate or hurtful excitement.

Insanity.

This morbid state of mental function may arise from a large variety of diseased relations with the different structures and functions of the general system. Nor can the aggregate effect be overcome without subduing the several and conjoint noxious agencies that constitute and sustain the mental derangement. Disease is not known either by an acquaintance with its nominal designation, or by a portion only of its distempered concatenations. It will be requisite to understand it in all its bearings and connexions, to be enabled to form a correct opinion of its origin, progress, and final extension.

Prominent features and conspicuous links of disease may be fully perceived, whilst the more recondite conditions and operative agencies may have been neither discerned nor suspected. For want of sufficiently knowing these concealed but efficient influences, misapprehensions arise of the true relations and essential phenomena of disease.

Disordered states of the cerebral function are imputed either to an undue determination of blood to the brain, to an inordinate exertion of nervous energy, or to the morbid influence of disturbed sympathies in the visceral and other structures of the system. An indication derived from either of these supposed causes of disease, as to the most direct and efficient mode of relief, would probably fail from not including in the scheme of remedy any adequate provision against the hidden workings by which the diseased relations and compact are sustained and perpetuated. The minute processes in diseased vital action are merged in the more evident traits by which disease is characterised and obviously recognised; yet in these evanescent realities reside the main ground-work and difficulty of curative endeavours.

In what are correctly called natural cures, the necessary auxiliaries are supplied, and a solution of the morbid problem covertly but effectually obtains. Thus spontaneous bleeding from the nose, to the extent of a few ounces only, is more availing in affections of the brain, than the loss of pounds by artificial abstraction. The natural effusion in this case resulted from a concurring or coinciding influence of the diseased relations that were originally and sympathetically involved in the morbid disturbance. The discharge, therefore, however small, was the co-operative effect of natural and consentaneous efforts that proved salutary. The artificial depletion would perhaps only diminish the general energies of life, without dissolving the morbid connexion by which the disease was constituted and upheld.

This description of curative power also strikingly subsists between the morbid condition of insanity, and the sanative influence of obesity. Maniacal affection will proceed with unabated and apparently with irremediable violence for many months, when, without any evident cause, the adipose substance will gradually amass in the cellular membrane, and the patient exhibits the appearance of becoming progressively fat. As the fatty accumulation advances, the maniacal excitement remits, and speedily so far intermits, or is so entirely suspended, as to admit of a natural exercise of the mental function in all its healthful faculties. The writer has recently observed this remarkable fact in the instance of a female maniac, who, after an insuperable course of insanity on two different occasions, during about eight months, gradually became fat and perfectly sane. This recovery endured about two years, when the salutary obesity began to lessen, until the former thinness and its associated mania were reproduced. This again, after an interval of about eight months, likewise gave way to the remedial influence of renewed obesity.

The salutary effect produced by the process of fattening, in the circumstances stated, must have been on the principle of derivation, by which morbid excitement is transferred or changes its seat of action. The locomotive quality of disease is a real condition, and might occasionally be made subservient to important curative objects. Morbid excitement in one situation may be destructive of life, in another, comparatively harmless. On the cerebral structure, for example, it may occasion insanity, whilst its removal to the cellular membrane would induce an augmented secretion of fat, a process not unhealthy in itself, and which, by its derivative agency, exonerates the brain from maniacal derangement.

Taunton, August 15, 1829.

To the Editor of the Gazette of Health.

CANCER OF THE UTERUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

SIR,—There is no organic disease attended with such excruciating and appalling symptoms as the complaint on which I am now addressing you. When we consider, that it is one of the most distressing maladies to which the female part of the community is liable; when we reflect on the agonizing torture it inflicts on these objects of our tender care and solicitude; when we view them bereaved of every hope and a prey to misery and despair; and when we contemplate how sedulously they are wont to console us in our sorrows, ready and ever willing to pour the balm of comfort into our hearts, and to sooth the language of affliction whenever we stand in need of their sympathizing sorrow, and likewise how largely we are indebted to them for the greater part of the comfort and happiness we enjoy; it cannot but excite in us, who study humanity as well as physic, a more than ordinary zeal to relieve them from the accumulated ills which this disease entails upon them. I have long observed, but not without painful emotions of commiseration, that this distressing complaint, having hitherto been looked upon as incurable, has not had that attention devoted to it which it deserves, the means that have heretofore been adopted for its relief, having been merely palliative. I am fully convinced, that in its commencement, before considerable structural derangement be produced, much may be done to obviate it, and after ulceration has taken place, much more remains to be done than has been generally attempted. Now this is one of those diseases for which the whole artillery of three branches of the profession is more essentially necessary to be called into action than any other. In this case, the profession being constituted as it is, possibly may account why so much apathy exists respecting it, and so little has hiterto been done for its removal. As far as my investigations and experience go, it is very gratifying to my feelings to say, that this disease is much more under the influence and control of medical assistance, when properly combined with surgical aid, than the generality of the profession are inclined to believe. The symptoms in different patients are so variously modified, that no universal plan can be made applicable to all cases. In its early stage, I have been in the habit of prescribing the tincture of iodine, with an appropriate dose of the solution of the acetate of morphine, night and morning, just sufficient to subdue irritation, using at the same time the warm hip-bath with a small portion of bay salt dissolved in it, and I have been pleased in observing, that this plan in this state of the disease has been capable of effecting a complete removal of it. In the more advanced period of the disorder, in addition to what has been previously proposed, I have been compelled to adopt more active means, sometimes I have used injections of extract of lead and elder-flower water, sometimes infusion of digitalis with the superacetate of lead, at other times the decoction of dulcamara with the muriate of ammonia, and where there is much pain, infusions of opium with the acetate of zinc, selecting one or the other, and regulating the strength of the medicine as the case and symptoms may seem to require. In

administering these injections, it must be observed, to be advantageously used they must be exhibited differently from the mode usually pursued. They must be applied more like ablutions than injections, not with the common female syringe, but with an apparatus properly adapted for the intention internally. I have ordered different preparations of iron with decided benefit, and I have sometimes prescribed the liquor arsenicalis with the tincture of henbane. I have also given the fucus helminthocorton with advantage, and this last medicine has been, by my suggestion, exhibited by my worthy friend Mr. Philip Marshall, of Shepton Mallet, to a patient labouring under this distressing affliction, which effected a complete cure. I can, with great truth assert, that this method, if properly persevered in, even in its more advanced stage, will make the patient not only comfortable, but tend to prevent the progress of diseased action. In the last and most dreadful stage of all, when the afflicted sufferer is almost deprived of every hope; when by its progressive continuance the uterus has become much increased in size, and ulcerative process has taken place, accompanied with the most aggravating and distressing symptoms; here, even here, much more may be done effectually to relieve the complaint than has generally been contemplated. In this untoward situation, I recommend suppositories of morphine and cicuta, to be applied up the vagina to the uterus, and likewise suppositories of belladonna, but those with the belladonna must be very cautiously exhibited by the vagina to the ulcerated surface; they may, however, be safely applied by the anus; and here I must beg leave to call your attention to an application, from which I have found more essential benefit, which is the oil of tin. Lint moistened in it and applied by the vagina to the diseased part, I have found a very sedative and soothing application, and I am inclined to think it has a specific power in this disease; by its application alone I have cured an ulcerated cancer of the breast; by its employment the pain gradually ceased, the diseased part became more and more exposed, and at last completely sloughed away, healthy granulations succeeded, and the wound healed without any difficulty. If this medicine should not answer the end proposed, the ablutions, with the injunctions previously recommended, should be used, with such quantity of the solution of the acetate of the morphine, as is sufficient to alleviate the urgency of the pain; if the discharge should be profuse, instead of these injections, I use the decoction of oak bark and tincture of myrrh; and if it should be offensive, a solution of the chlorate of soda in a strong emulsion of bitter almonds with the morphine; giving internally the infusion of the fucus helminthocorton, and keeping up the strength of the patient by bark and other appropriate medicines, attending at the same time, in the several stages of the disease, to the state of the stomach and chylopoietic viscera.

I have thus described some of the general remedies I have been in the habit of exhibiting with advantage in this disease. I shall make no apology for the length of his communication, the nature of its object being such as entitles it to our best consideration. Callous and insensible must we be to the finer feelings of humanity if we were not more than ardently solicitous in arresting the progress of the insidious

ravages of this malignant complaint, and in exerting our utmost efforts in averting the arrows of death from the seat of life.

I am, Sir, your obedient and very humble servant,

JOHN TUSON.

Howland Street, Sept. 23, 1829.

EXCESSIVE BLEEDING AFTER EXTRACTION OF A TOOTH.

Mr. Cortez, an eminent surgeon, of Gibraltar, has published a case of excessive escape of blood after the extraction of a tooth, in which the introduction of soft bees-wax, of the same size and shape of the tooth, into the cavity, effectually succeeded in compressing the lacerated vessel or vessels. When a tooth has more than one fang this practice is more likely to prove successful than the plan of introducing a plug of compressed dried sponge, recommended by a correspondent in one of our early numbers, on account of its admitting of being forced into all the divisions of the cavity by pressure.

OPEN CANCER.

Mr. Fielding, a respectable practitioner, of Hull, has published a case of ulceration of the right breast of a female, about eighty-one years of age, which he considered ulcerated cancer, in which the internal exhibition of the alkaline principle of hemlock (conine) with the topical application of a weak solution of the chloride of lime, effected a cure. The breast had been in a diseased state about fifteen years, and at the time she placed herself under the care of Mr. Fielding, the ulcerated surface was four inches in length and two inches and a half in breadth, and much excavated, and the odour arising from it was so very offensive as "to destroy her appetite." Some surgeons of Hull had pronounced the disease incurable. The following is a translation of Mr. Fielding's prescriptions:—

Take of Conine six grains;
Extract of Hemlock, twenty-four grains.—Mix, and divide into twenty-four pills; two to be taken every night.

Take of Solution of Chloride of Lime, two ounces;
Pure Water, six ounces.—Mix.

"Lint dipped in this lotion was applied over the ulcerated surface, and kept constantly moist."

After taking the pills nearly three weeks, Mr. Fielding ordered half a drachm of the tincture of conine (made by dissolving thirty-two grains of conine in an ounce of proof spirit,) to be taken three times a-day in two ounces of peppermint water.

Mr. Fielding observes, that "he is not aware there is at present *on record* a case of ulcerated cancer which has been cured, either spontaneously or otherwise." If he will take the trouble of referring to Mr. Carmichael's *Treatise on Cancer* he will find several similar cases, which were cured by the internal use of the oxyphosphate of iron and the topical application of the phosphate of iron. Mr. Allard, late Senior Surgeon of the Bristol Infirmary, has also published a case of cancerous ulceration, which was cured under his direction, by the topical application of the phosphate of iron.

Conine, when properly prepared, being a very powerful poison, we

advise our readers who may give it a trial, to commence with the dose of a quarter of a grain, and to increase it very gradually till it slightly disorders the head or stomach.

CHOLERA MORBUS.

A most unexampled cholera morbus lately appeared in the school of Mr. Day, a very respectable teacher at Clapham. One of his sons was suddenly attacked with all the symptoms of the disease, the severity of which in this country has been seldom equalled. The malady proved fatal in about twelve hours after its commencement. In the course of two days twenty boys (there being only twenty-seven at the time in the school) were attacked; the youngest most severely. Another son of Mr. Day's died. The other boys were taken from the school, and have since recovered. It was at first supposed that poison might have been exhibited in some underhand way. This, however, is not the fact; for it turned out, that the effluvia, arising from the opening of an old cess-pool, had given rise to this most distressing calamity.

No blame whatever is attached to Mr. Day, who bears a very high character for attention to his scholars. The drain and cess-pool having been cleaned and covered in, the school-house is, no doubt, as healthy as any in the neighbourhood of London.

The following respectable testimony very satisfactorily proves that, for this truly unfortunate occurrence, Mr. Day is not in the smallest degree blameable; and that the cause being removed, the situation, as we have above stated, is as healthy as any spot within fifty miles of London.

"*Clapham, August* 26, 1829.

"The undersigned medical gentlemen were consulted on the late melancholy occurrence which took place at Mr. Day's school, Clapham.

"After a very careful investigation of the cause of so unusual and terrible a visitation, it was discovered that a cesspool had, on the preceding Tuesday, been opened for the purpose of letting off stagnant water from the play-ground, occasioned by the late heavy rains, and that the contents of this had been removed to the garden. Upon a survey of all the circumstances, it is the belief of the undersigned medical attendants, that the pestilential effluvia, arising from this source, occasioned the catastrophe above alluded to.

"It is due to Mr. Day and his family to state, that, prior to the discovery of what is believed to be the real cause of this disorder, diligent examination had been made of the various cooking utensils, and that an analysis had been made by Dr. Burton, in London, of the several articles of food, as well as of the matters ejected from the stomachs of the sick, and that these were found to be in a satisfactory state.

"The severe affliction which Mr. and Mrs. Day have experienced in the loss of their two children (the only cases of death which occurred), added to the intense distress they suffered from the alarming state in which seventeen of their pupils were during the whole of Sunday, calls for the deepest sympathy of those who witnessed the scene;

while the prompt and determined measures which they instantly adopted to meet the terrible evil, merit the highest approbation of those who professionally attended.

"The undersigned are induced to hope, that as they have the power of stating that Mr. and Mrs. Day are strictly exonerated from even a shadow of blame; that as the occurrence is one that can never again take place; that as the conduct of the heads of the establishment was most praiseworthy and judicious, as well as efficient; that as the locality of their school is decidedly healthy;—under these repeated assurances, they are induced to hope, that the interests of an establishment so well conducted, may not suffer in the estimation of the parents of their pupils, or others—a consequence which would greatly add to the affliction under which the bereaved parents are now suffering so severely.

"WM. PEARSON, F. R. S. Surgeon, Clapham.
JOHN SPURGIN, M. D. 38, Guilford-street.
J. ANGAS, Surgeon, Clapham.
S. SANDERS, Surgeon, Clapham."

"We, the undersigned, having been called on to attend professionally during the progress of the late illness in Mr. Day's school at Clapham, beg leave to state, that, in our opinion, a sufficient cause for the disorder which we witnessed has been found in the effluvium from a cesspool, lately opened behind the house, as mentioned in the statement signed by Dr. Spurgin, Mr. Pearson, &c.

"We take this opportunity of expressing, in the strongest terms, our entire approbation of Mr. Day's conduct, and that of the attendants upon the establishment, under all the great difficulties and distress of this unhappy event.

"We are, besides, of opinion, that Mr. Day's house is airy and well situated; and that, as the cause has been ascertained, and is not likely to recur, there is no reason for apprehending a return of the disorder.

"P. M. LATHAM, M. D. Grosvenor-street.
W. F. CHAMBERS, M. D. Brook-street."

Notwithstanding nearly every street of this metropolis has a common sewer, there is scarcely an old house without the old cesspool, with filth in a most offensive state, and from which, on certain changes of the atmosphere, offensive effluvia do not more or less escape. Such receptacles for filth should be filled up on the completion of the common sewer in the street; when, from the shortness of the drains, they are not necessary. The effluvia occasionally arising from them are, no doubt, frequently an unsuspected cause of disease. When opened, the effluvia are often intolerably offensive.

MR. WARDROP'S OPERATION FOR ANEURISM.

The splendid talents of this celebrated court surgeon have just gained an additional laurel by the termination of Mrs. Denmark's life, the patient on whom he put into execution his original and highly philosophical operation for the cure of aneurism.

Mrs. Denmark was rescued from the jaws of death two years and a half ago, by this great operator; and the aneurism with which she

had been affected had, at one time, disappeared. Owing, however, to the carotid artery becoming pervious, it again enlarged, but so slowly, as completely to prove the truth of Mr. Wardrop's reasonings. The patient did not die from the effects of the tumour, but from a disorder of the bowels. In the progress of this case, every falsehood, which the most pitiful envy and the most disgusting malice could invent, was launched at the head of the enterprising surgeon. It was stated, that the case was not an aneurism of the *innominata*; and, by one individual, as not aneurism at all. Mr. Wardrop has, we are happy to see, assumed the high ground he is entitled to take, as chief surgeon to the king, and one of the most esteemed and best employed practitioners in the metropolis, by treating his wretched traducers with consummate contempt. All the answer he has deigned to give them is contained in the simple statement that he will deposit—the preparation of which demonstrates, beyond a doubt, the truth of his opinions—in the museum of the College of Surgeons. If remorse ever wounded the consciences of those who, from selfish and base motives, attempt to stop the progress of science, and to malign improvements calculated to alleviate the sufferings of humanity, these contemptible reptiles must have a melancholy, though well-merited fate.

EXCESSIVE THIRST.

Dr. Allert, a German physician, relates a case of excessive thirst in a female, apparently not depending on any organic change. The quantity of water which she had already drank was very great, without any alleviation of the intolerable thirst. A quarter of a pint of strong camphorated julep, taken every two hours, speedily allayed the malady, after every other means had failed.

LOCKED JAW.

An Italian journal relates the case of a woman affected with locked jaw, following a slight wound of the forehead, which was cured by applying acetate of morphine to a blistered surface on the nape of the neck. Thus applied, it speedily exerted its peculiar antispasmodic powers, although, when administered internally, it proved of no avail.

THE LARVÆ OF INSECTS, &c. EVOLVED IN THE HUMAN STOMACH.

We have already noticed the excellent work of Mr. Rhind, on intestinal worms, but at the time we had not room to introduce the following interesting chapter:—In addition to the curious cases it contains, we may mention that of a man, who has been for some time past traversing the country to exhibit himself. If, in the act of his swallowing food, the hand be placed over the region of the stomach, a strong motion is felt, and something presses very forcibly outward, giving the idea of an animal pressing its back against the parietes of the stomach, in the act of rising to seize the food which is descending the gullet. Judging from the feeling conveyed by the hand, the animal appears to be a small rabbit.

Sir Astley Cooper, Mr. Cline, and some eminent doctors, have signed a certificate, stating that they considered the symptoms to be produced by the presence of a living animal.

"That the larvæ of the various species of insects, as well as other worms and reptiles which naturally inhabit the earth, find their way into the human body, are capable of existing there for a considerable length of time, and are often voided either by the mouth, or per anum, in a living and perfect state, are facts which the daily experience of medical men can vouch for. It would appear that these animals are capable of resisting the action of the gastric juice and other processes of digestion; and such a circumstance goes far to confirm the observation often made, that this fluid only acts upon *dead* matter. It would seem, too, that these animals have access to air also in the stomach and intestines; for many species are voided alive, to whose existence respiration in some form is absolutely necessary.

"In the fourth volume of the Transactions of King's and Queen's College of Physicians, in Ireland, there is a very singular case given by Dr. Pickells, of a young woman who discharged at different times an immense quantity of insects from her stomach, chiefly of the beetle tribe (the blaps mortisaga, and tenebrio molitor.) 'Of the larvæ of the beetle,' says Dr. Pickells, 'I am sure I considerably underrate when I say, that independently of above a hundred evacuated per anum, not less than seven hundred have been thrown up from the stomach, at different times, since the commencement of my attendance. The larvæ of the beetle were, with few exceptions, lively in the extreme; nor was it possible, without a feeling of horror, to view them frisking along the bottom of the vessel in which they were preserved, occasionally expanding their jaws, and extending their denticulated feet or 'talons,' as their unfortunate victim used to call them. The larvæ of the dipterous insect, though voided only about seven or eight times, according to her account came up almost literally in myriads.' From this case, too, it would appear, that the larvæ, pupæ, and imago of the same insects were successively discharged from the same individual; thus establishing the interesting fact, that the different successive metamorphoses of insects may take place in the human intestines during life.

"The larvæ of the various species of moths, of the common flesh-fly, &c. I have repeatedly seen voided from the bowels. The larvæ of the tenebrio molitor, or meal beetle, too, is met with very frequently. A young girl of three years of age, a patient of Dr. Mackintosh, of this city, has repeatedly voided quantities of the common earth worm (the lumbricus terrestris,) several of which, quite alive, I have, through the kindness of Dr. Mackintosh, myself examined. It would appear that the child, from an unnatural appetite, is in the practice of swallowing quantities of earth, &c. Along with the worms were also observed the larvæ of another small insect.

"The following case was communicated to me by Mr. A. Anderson, surgeon, Haddington. Mr. Anderson attended the patient, and, to prevent any suspicions of imposition, had the declarations of the patient and his wife, as to the truth of the whole circumstance, taken before a respectable justice of the peace in the neighbourhood, a copy of which declaration is now before me:—Robert Dixon, farm-servant, Markle, Haddingtonshire, was, in the summer of 1826, engaged in driving lime to the fields, and was in the habit of

frequently drinking from the ditches on the road side. In the end of the same year his disorder commenced with an increased desire for food, a vomiting up of fetid slimy matter from his stomach, which made him cough, and with which he was attacked two or three times a-day; nearly half a pint would come up at a time, accompanied with sour belchings and eructations, and a most obstinate state of bowels, five or six days sometimes intervening without a stool. He felt a swelling and fulness of the right superior portion of the stomach, which was very painful when pressed. Slept very well, except on his right side; for when he attempted to lie upon it, an almost continued working up of the slimy matter took place, which made him sit up, and brought on cough.

"He continued in this state till June, 1828, using a variety of medicines, and undergoing a variety of medical treatment, without any relief.

"On the 17th of June, Mr. Anderson was consulted, and ordered him a strong solution of carbonate of soda, and pills of calomel, hyoscyamus, and extract of gentian. On the second day after the exhibition of these medicines, in one of his severe fits of vomiting, he ejected from the stomach an animal of about four inches in length, which proved to be the common species of gray snail (the limax major.) It was quite lively and vigorous when voided, and lived in Mr. Anderson's possession for five days afterwards. After this the patient's distressing symptoms of vomiting, &c. disappeared, and he is now (10th October) about to resume his usual occupation."

DEAFNESS FROM DETONATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

SIR,—Being a subscriber to your instructive and extensively circulated journal, I take the liberty, though not a medical man, to make some remarks on a species of deafness to which I, and some of my friends, have become subject. This affection, which attacks only the left ear, I have suffered from, more or less, for several years. I am not constantly subject to it, but only during the shooting season. Now being an old sportsman, though I have not yet passed the grand climacteric, I was for a long time greatly puzzled to account for it. During the months of September and October, my left ear was totally deprived of sensibility, which gradually returned, as I less often made use of the gun; and shortly after the shooting season was over, I regained this invaluable sense. At the commencement of the present shooting season, I happened to make use of an old flint gun, having always hitherto employed a percussion one, and was not a little astonished to find that this year I have been free from deafness. On comparing notes, I find that my deafness commenced the first year I made use of the percussion lock, and has continued till the present season, when I relinquished it. The history of those of my sporting friends, who have been affected with this periodical deafness of the left ear, corroborates the idea, that the disease is occasioned by the peculiarly harsh sound of the detonating powder. It appears, however, rather singular, that the *left* ear should be affected, when the right remains

unaffected. The solution of this phenomenon I must leave to you. The fact, however, is as I have stated.

If you will give insertion to this letter in your *Gazette*, it may be perhaps of use to the sporting world, by prompting the ingenuity of some one, so to alter the composition of the powder employed for the percussion cap, as to prevent this most serious evil.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

AN OLD SPORTSMAN.

York, Sept. 20, 1829.

We feel obliged to our correspondent for his statement, which accords, in every particular, with that of a nobleman with whom we conversed on the same subject a short time ago. The disease is, probably, the result of the peculiarity in the explosion of the detonating powder, which produces a very acute and harsh noise. It is a well known physiological fact, that the effect of sound on the ear is not in proportion to their loudness, but to their acuteness.

The fact of the left ear being affected in preference to the right, may be perhaps explained on the principle, that the right being compressed by the stock of the gun, and thereby partially closed, the harsh noise does not find an easy entrance into it. How the powder could be so altered in its composition, as to prevent the peculiarity of its sound on explosion, we are at a loss to conceive.

ST. VITUS'S DANCE.

Dr. Elliotson lately cured a girl about ten years of age who was afflicted with a severe degree of St. Vitus's dance, by giving her two drachms of the sub-carbonate of iron every six hours. In his remarks on her case, he observes, that this practice was much more efficacious than the purgative plan so strongly recommended by Dr. Hamilton, of Edinburgh. He has cured twenty cases by the sub-carbonate of iron.

EXCISION OF THE UTERUS.

Dr. Recamier, of Paris, has lately successfully extirpated the entire uterus affected with cancer. The operator followed a plan somewhat similar to that adopted by our scientific countryman Dr. Blundell, performing the operation per vaginam, and not in the way proposed by Lizars, of Edinburgh, of cutting into the abdomen. The woman was fifty-three years of age and the mother of three children.

DIABETES.

Dr. Chalmers, an eminent physician of Hull, has published an interesting case of diabetes, in which the hydro-sulphuret of ammonia (lately noticed by us as a remedy for this disease,) was successfully administered under his direction at the General Infirmary of Kingston upon Hull. The patient (a male), about thirty-six years of age, had been for some time a labourer in a fenny part of Lincolnshire. At the time of being admitted into the institution, he passed saccharine urine to the extent of twenty-eight pints daily, and was affected with the characteristic symptoms of the malady, as excessive thirst, dry and rough skin, wasting of the body, voracious appetite,

constipation, &c. The doctor ordered a warm-bath, cupping over the loins, fifteen grains of Dover's powder with two of calomel, to be taken at bed time, and a drachm of compound jalap powder the following morning, with the common diet of the hospital. This treatment having failed to produce any beneficial effect, the doctor directed a quarter of a grain of emetic tartar dissolved in an ounce of water to be taken every second hour, a grain of opium at bed time, a pint of lime water with an equal quantity of milk daily, and the loins to be rubbed twice a-day with the ointment of tartarised antimony. The symptoms continuing unabated after this treatment had been adopted four days, the doctor prescribed the following mixture:—

Take of Hydro-sulphuret of ammonia, thirty drops;

Pure water six ounces.—Mix. A sixth part to be taken three times a-day. To have animal food twice a-day.

After continuing this mixture two days, the quantity of urine was reduced to twenty pints in the course of twenty-four hours. To keep up a regular state of the bowels, the doctor ordered a pill—compound of calomel, two grains; bitter apple, four grains; and croton oil, one drop; to be taken occasionally. After persisting in the use of these remedies a fortnight, the quantity of the hydro-sulphuret of ammonia in the mixture was increased to twenty drops. The warm-bath was sometimes employed. During this treatment, the quantity of the urine and the other symptoms gradually abated; and in the course of six weeks, when he was much more active in his habits, the healthy function of the skin was restored, the appetite and thirst nearly natural, and the quantity of urine, which was less, reduced to seven pints daily, and less saccharine. At this time, when there was every reasonable hope of a favourable termination of the case, he was dismissed the hospital for irregularity.

RHEUMATISM.

Mr. Evans, of Finsbury-place South, has communicated to the profession, through the medium of the periodical press, a few cases of rheumatism, in which the wine of the *seeds* of the meadow saffron succeeded, after the usual remedies, and even the wine of the *root* of the meadow saffron, had failed. Of these cases, the following affords the most decisive evidence of the antirheumatic virtues of this remedy. The only liberty we shall take in transcribing it, will be a translation of his medical, *alias*, dog-latin, into intelligible English.

Mrs. B. the wife of a butcher, residing at Brixton, was attacked in the spring of the past year by rheumatic gout. To this malady she had been subject upwards of twenty years. It generally paid her two visits annually—visits as unceremonious in their approach, as they were lengthy in duration, each confining her to the bed for the average period of six weeks; and each leaving a notice with the constitution that it had been drawn upon too largely. At the time adverted to, I was asked to see her, and found the poor creature writhing in the greatest agony, with the phalanges of the fingers flexed at right angles, and the motion of every joint of the body more or less influenced by the deposition of earthy concretions. Having ascertained that she had tried nearly every article in the materia medica, (the wine of the

root of the meadow saffron had had its full share in the practice,) and had given the Ollapodian doctrine (of pacing through the alphabet from A to Z,) a full trial, I merely prescribed—

Take of the wine of the *seeds* of meadow saffron, 35 drops;
Water half-an-ounce.

"In about thirty-six hours, I repeated my visit, and found the patient not only considerably improved; but, according to her own phraseology, 'actually in heaven.' Not a vestige of pain remained. And she told me, that soon after taking the second dose, when vomiting and purging took place, she was sensible of much diminution of suffering, that the abatement was gradual and remarkable; and that the thirtieth hour from the beginning of the treatment, saw her without a single joint affected. The vomiting (if vomiting strictly means an ejectment of the contents of the stomach, the word retching would be here more applicable; the usual effect produced by the meadow saffron, is a frequent purging or retching; the medicine itself is rarely returned; and, at the utmost, we may have a little frothy mucus) and purging which had been amusing the patient pretty actively, were now arrested by the omission of the meadow saffron, and the commission of a little opium; and the turbulent stomach and bowels having been reduced to a perfect obedience, she was directed, for a day or two, to take merely the simple saline draught, every four hours. The universal earthy deposits strongly evinced a more than common rheumatic and gouty diathesis; and, with a view to lessen the affection of the system by these maladies; I kept it gently influenced by the meadow saffron for eight or ten days. At the end of this period, the rigid fingers, to my surprise, had gained somewhat of their wonted power; the size of the joints had diminished, and she, who for years had been quite unable to use a knife and fork, now took a pin from her dress with the greatest ease. Mrs. B. has had two or three attacks since the time above spoken of, but they have been as readily controlled; and I am really afraid to state the terms in which the old lady(for she is about seventy) speaks of her medicine."

To insure the specific effects of the wine, or tincture of the *seeds* of the meadow saffron, (which Dr. Williams, of Ipswich, as well as ourselves, has found more efficacious in cases of inflammatory rheumatism and gout, than the same preparations of the *root*,) the stomach and bowels should be prepared for its exhibition. If the stomach be disordered, the bowels irregular, and the general system considerably reduced, or the patient be of a leucophlegmatic habit, the tincture or the wine of the meadow saffron seeds is a dangerous remedy both for gout and rheumatism. In debilitated subjects, it is customary with experienced practitioners to prescribe either preparation in conjunction with a tonic medicine.

The editor of a Parisian medical journal (*La Clinique*) has published a few cases of deep-seated rheumatism, in which blisters, applied over the part affected, and afterwards sprinkled over with morphine (from half a grain to a grain) succeeded in a few days in removing the disease.

Dr. Belcombe, of York, has been in the habit, for the last five years, of prescribing the carbonate of iron, from half a drachm to a

drachm, every six hours, (as directed by Mr. Hutchinson for tic douloureux,) in cases of chronic rheumatism; and "I can," says he, "aver that its exhibition has produced more benefit in a fair average of cases, than any other remedies I have trusted to." The Doctor adds, "how often this complaint may be connected with, or be mistaken for, neuralgia (tic douloureux), I will not, at present, venture to discuss; but I thought it a fair induction from Mr. Hutchinson's mode of treating tic douloureux, to endeavour to extend its use to other painful disorders." The carbonate of iron was frequently prescribed by the late Dr. Campbell, of Hereford, in cases of chronic rheumatism, in very debilitated or leucophlegmatic subjects, in conjunction with ipecacuhan powder, opium, camphor, and guaiac gum, more with a view of raising the standard of health, than to allay pain; but he seldom exceeded the dose of three grains. He also prescribed friction, with a stimulating liniment, similar to that we have noticed under the head of naptha liniment.

Mr. Evans informs his readers, that the tincture of the seeds of the meadow saffron may be obtained of three druggists in London. Surely the learned gentleman cannot be so ignorant of the general practice of the profession in London, as not to know that the wine and tincture of the seeds of the meadow saffron is so frequently prescribed by surgeons and physicians, that it is kept by every respectable chemist and apothecary in the metropolis. We advise the learned gentleman to write his prescriptions, in future, in simple English; as "Semen Colchi*cum*," and "Vin. Sem*en* Colch." may, to the unlearned, have an imposing effect; but to the classic reader, may betray an ignorance of Latin. It is customary for the editors of medical journals to correct the grammatical errors of those who occasionally make a flourish with a scrap of a dead language, which, on the ignorant, like the technical exhibitions of advertising pretenders, have an imposing effect.

THE COLIC OF PAINTERS.

The editors of the Parisian journal (*La Clinique*) have published a case of this very painful malady, in which twenty drops of the croton oil rubbed over the bowels, and three grains of opium administered internally, were attended with the happiest effects. The physician had recourse to the friction with the oil, in consequence of the impossibility of introducing a sufficient quantity of an aperient medicine into the stomach. The disease was attended with furious delirium, convulsions, and considerable rigidity of the muscles of the lower jaw.

POLYPUS IN THE NOSTRILS.

Baron Dupuytren, the leading surgeon of Paris, having frequently witnessed the bad consequences (inflammation of the membrane, sometimes extending to the brain and exfoliation) of the common method of removing polypus from a nostril, by the barbarous practice of forcibly tearing it away by means of forceps, which is generally employed in this country, has lately adopted a plan of removing it by ligature, similar to that which has been long employed in this country in cases of polypus *in utero*. To facilitate and insure the proper application of the ligament, M. Dupuytren has contrived an instrument, consisting

of a hollow stalk about six inches in length, in width of the size of a large sound, the extremities flattened, and half an inch in breadth. At each side of the extremity there is a small opening, with a silver thread. This thread, passed through each of the holes, and with the ends in the stalk of the instrument, forms a noose, which may be occasionally enlarged or diminished, and directed to either side of the nostril.

On the 6th of July last, M. Dupuytren made use of this instrument to remove a polypus in the right nostril. The patient was about seventeen years of age. The noose being applied to the base of the polypus (which was accomplished with great facility), and moderate constriction employed, a considerable quantity of blood escaped into the mouth, and a little by the nose and ear. That the tumour, on its separation, should not occasion suffocation by falling on the glottis, he passed a ligature through it, and attached the end to the cheek, by means of the adhesive plaster. On the second day of the operation, the tumour was black and livid, and the discharge from it being very offensive, he ordered a gargle, of a diluted solution of the chloride of lime to be used frequently. On the sixth day the tumour separated, and was readily removed by the ligature which had been passed through it. The size of it was about that of a hen's egg.

SCARLET FEVER.

Messrs. Taynton and Williams, respectable general practitioners of Bromley, in Kent, have lately administered the chlorine in a case of scarlet fever, attended with very unfavourable symptoms. The following is a copy of their statement of the case:—"A youth at a boarding-school (the son of Mr. Hammond, a druggist, at Dartmouth, affected with scarlet fever) was most dangerously ill. His skin was covered a dusky hue; the nostrils excoriated by the acrimony of the discharge; the greatest difficulty in swallowing any thing, low delirium, with a very rapid pulse; every symptom of approaching dissolution. In this state he began to take the chlorine in the evening (one drachm in half a pint of distilled water). The nurse was directed to give him as much as she could prevail on him to swallow. On visiting him the following morning, there was an evident amendment, and, in twenty-four hours, he appeared out of danger." Encouraged by the very favourable result of this trial, and having many more opportunities of employing the remedy, they gave it to several patients, of different ages, afflicted with the disease, on whom it produced the same beneficial effect.

They notice an advantage this article possesses over most medicines; viz. that children will take it without difficulty. It is, indeed, very grateful to the palate of patients suffering from thirst. They should have noticed the strength of the chlorine they employed. Our readers will bear in mind, that the remedy was administered when the disease had far advanced. During the first, or acute stage, it would probably act injuriously, by increasing the febrile state of the system.

STRANGULATED RUPTURE.

The Editors of the *Journal of Medicine*, published in Bordeaux, have given a case of a large inguinal rupture, which had been in a state of strangulation for five days. Numerous attempts to reduce it

having failed, Dr. Brulateur was requested to visit him. The Doctor, after examining the tumour, ordered ice to be applied to it, a large dose of castor oil to be administered, and blood to be taken from a vein. This treatment failing, he introduced a bougie, thickly besmeared with purified opium, into the urethra; soon after which the patient fell asleep, during which the rupture disappeared, and soon after awaking, he had two fœcal evacuations. We should certainly have given a preference to the extract of the belladonna, and have introduced it into the rectum, insteadof the urethra; or rubbed a solution of it over the tumour, a practice, the good effect of which we have noticed in a late number.

INTERMITTENT FEVER.

In our last volume we have made some remarks on the mode of curing this disease, by taking blood from a vein during the cold fit, when the vital powers are apparently in so reduced a state as to indicate an opposite treatment. This practice, which we believe was first adopted by Dr. M'Intosh, of Edinburgh, we find has a few advocates among the medical profession of this metropolis. Dr. M'Intosh was induced to have recourse to abstraction of blood under the supposition that the blood-vessels of the viscera were overloaded during the cold fit, and that by unloading them he should not only shorten, if not prevent, the hot paroxysm, but avoid mischief in the viscera, which tends to prolong the malady. Dr. Ridgway, of London, states that he has continued this practice for some time, with the most decided advantage. He has lately published the "following instance of the employment of this method of treatment, which, as it occurred in London," he thinks "may bring the matter into more immediate view, perhaps tend more effectually to deprive it of its imaginary terrors, and possibly induce a greater degree of attention to a point of medical practice that teems with important consequences.

"A young peasant girl, sixteen years of age, had passed all the first portion of her life in her father's house, in one of those unhealthy villages in the lower part of Kent where intermittent fever ever flourishes, and of all the family, she alone had yet escaped its influence. It was about six months," continues Dr. Ridgway, "before the time, of which we are to speak, that this young person was sent up to London, to the care of an elder married sister, who placed her in the neighbourhood of Fitzroy-square. Here, as it is to be feared is much too often the unfeeling practice, she was put to sleep, with damp bedding, in a cold, wet kitchen, or rather cellar. The girl immediately fell sick, and came under the care of a medical practitioner, who, having ascertained that her disease was intermittent fever, essayed every means in his power, for some time, to arrest the paroxysms. Failing in this attempt, he advised her, as her last and only resource, to return to her family in the country, which, it may be premised, he was not aware dwelt in a village in the aguish district of Kent. The girl complied with this advice, and after a short time, with the assistance of her mother and the village surgeon, the paroxysms ceased. She then returned to London during very unfavourable weather. Her sister placed her in another situation in the same neighbourhood,

in which she had hardly entered on her duties, when she unfortunately experienced a relapse. The disease recurred daily, instead of every third day. Her mistress being loth to part with her, appealed to my opinion on the probability of her immediate recovery. Being desirous to assist the kind intention of the lady, I undertook to arrest the disease by the means which of all others seemed to me most certainly capable of effecting this purpose—the abstraction of blood; which, in consonance with the opinions I have before expressed, I preferred to employ previously to the formation of, rather than in, the cold stage of the paroxysm, although, from the probably-long existing predisposition to the disease and its endurance, and obstinate resistance to every other remedy, the immediate and decided success of this means was made but too doubtful. The paroxysms were understood to come on about ten o'clock in the morning, but, by a mistake of the messenger, I was not conducted to the house until it was near that hour; and I also found that instead of recurring at a regular period, the paroxysm of to-day had anticipated that of yesterday by the space of about an hour; so that when I arrived, I found the cold stage had already existed nearly that period, and was now passing away and resolving itself into the hot stage. The skin was acquiring gradually an ardent heat; the pulse was exceedingly small and frequent, the respiration anxious, and the rigors were mitigated to shuddering, but she still sat leaning forward, vainly seeking relief from a large fire. Believing the paroxysm to be too far advanced to be influenced by the means with which it was threatened, I yet hesitated not to proceed; the conviction that it could have no injurious effect, being strengthened by the hope that it might be promptly beneficial, and by the assurance that the trial would at least serve to determine, whatever effect might follow, the remedy employed at this particular point of the paroxysm.

The girl was of a full and leuco-phlegmatic appearance. The skin and cellular texture were thick, and the veins small and reticulated; so that the blood flowed slowly from the puncture, to the extent of ten or twelve ounces. She felt faint and sick, and rejected from her stomach all the fluid she had drank with other matters. The shuddering immediately subsided, and she described her feelings as perfectly comfortable. Two hours afterwards, she was quite tranquil; the heat of the skin was not, nor had been greater than natural; the pulse was eighty-five and quiet; and thus finished the paroxysm. The blood showed a strong coat of lymph. So favourable an inclination of this paroxysm led me to indulge the hope, that the next would be averted. It, however, did come on, but not until an hour after the period of its expected exertion. The rigors were most vehement, the distress exceedingly great, and I resolved to repeat the attempt of the preceding day, by taking away more blood; which, at this earlier period of the paroxysm, and if practised with greater decision, might be productive of a more determinate result. But the blood flowed still more slowly, and the state of distress forming an obstacle to the protraction of the operation, a greater quantity was not obtained. No inconvenience whatever resulted from this measure; some relief of the rigors and distress followed, and the

succeeding stages of the paroxysm glided easily away. The next day, and to my surprise an hour earlier, another paroxysm arose, equal to the former in violence; but having this remarkable difference, that the sweating stage, which had hitherto been hardly expressed, was in it fully developed. The occurrence of this last paroxysm appeared to put an end to the hope, that the blood-letting which had been practised would be effectual in arresting the disease. I therefore thought to pause and await further indications; but examining the state of the abdomen, and finding it tumid, I imagined some benefit might accrue by evacuating freely its accumulated contents. Twelve grains of compound extract of bitter apple, with three grains of calomel, two of antimonial powder, and a drop of oil were formed into four pills. They were slow in acting, but before the next morning they had produced a full effect. The following day, I was pleased to find, brought no paroxysm. The girl recovered her health and spirits; but in a fortnight after, having incautiously exposed herself to the weather, a paroxysm showed itself; the same medicine was administered and no other paroxysm has since followed. Her complexion is become more florid, her constitution evidently improving, and she goes through her work with vivacity and cheerfulness. It is now more than a fortnight that she has continued free from disease without the assistance of any other remedy. It is obvious," continues the doctor, " that blood-letting was, in this instance, perfectly safe, and I think it will be admitted, was also useful in mitigating the disease, and if not in terminating, at least in rendering it amenable to the influence of other remedies, which might in vain be employed without it. From all that has yet appeared, I feel disposed to infer, that the opinion I formerly hazarded is not very far from the truth; that blood-letting is, in an intermittent fever, a remedy of the highest value; but, that to be effectual in promptly interrupting its paroxysms, it must be practised either before the accession of the paroxysm, or at least, as soon as possible after it has entered on its formation."

We heartily congratulate the young woman on the happy result of this scientific treatment, we were going to say on her narrow escape. Whether the mode of treatment or the language is more creditable to the learned Doctor, we shall not "hazard" an opinion; but we shall take the liberty to give the opinion, that had the pills been administered on the first attack of the malady, and been repeated every second or third day, with a stomachic, as the infusion of the chirayita herb, the essential salt of the round-leaf cornel, or the sulphate of quinine, three times a-day, the cure would have been not only more speedy, but more permanent. By abstraction of blood from a vein in a person whose stamina are good, the vital powers, particularly the absorbent system, are frequently brought into action, and the equal distribution of blood throughout the body, which follows fainting or vomiting after the loss of blood, proves very beneficial in numerous diseases, particularly in cases attended with, or arising from congestion of the blood-vessels, or loaded state of the cellular substance of a viscus or of the viscera; but when the stamina are not good, abstraction of blood, without the use of a tonic medicine, is likely to shorten the malady only by hastening the patient to his long-home. Think of this, most learned Doctor Ridgway, when you again have recourse to bleeding in a *case of intermittent* fever!

BUNION.

The Editors of the *Glasgow Medical Journal* have published the following directions for the treatment of this very troublesome tumour, which occurs on the inner side of the joint of the great toe: "The means we should employ in the early tendency to bunion, when the tumour is painful, though the distortion is inconsiderable, consists in diminishing the degree of pressure by which the joint becomes distorted. When the ligaments are naturally weak, even shoes that are narrow at the extremity will, by their pressure, tend to give an improper direction to the toes, and lay the foundation of the inconvenience, which will be aggravated into a disease by the direct pressure of the shoe on the projecting joint. The person should avoid all kind of excess likely to strain the ligaments connected with the toe beyond their strength. Horse exercise strengthens the joints of the feet, and should be substituted for walking; when the bearing upon the sole is oblique, from an inclination of the tarsus to yield, some assistance may be derived from mechanical contrivance, both in prevention and cure; increasing the thickness of the sole of the shoe may be of service, by throwing the bearing of the foot on the outerside, and taking off the weight of the body from the inner part of the arch. But the joint of the great toe requires especial attention; its obliquity may be very much corrected by the use of a small jointed splint, made of iron and covered with wash-leather, extending from the base of the metatarsal bone along its inner side to nearly the extremity of the toe. This may be secured either with a small strap and buckle or with adhesive plaster to the metatarsis and last phalanx." Although this tumour is occasioned, like corns, by pressure, its structure is very different, the bunion being a kind of bursal tumour, whilst that of the corn consists of layers of hardened cuticle. The size of it is sometimes so large as to interfere with the wearing a shoe, and the pain is often so excessive from the pressure of a new shoe, and from change of weather, that the patient is unable to walk. We have uniformly found the plaster of belladonna and mercury, spread on soft leather, with an easy shoe, speedily to succeed in rendering it quiescent and gradually to disperse it, without the aid of any mechanical means. If the tumour be in a state of inflammatory excitement, blood should be taken from it by means of three or four leeches previously to the use of the plaster.

PARTIAL PALSY, &c.

A case of partial palsy was lately cured, in the Glasgow Infirmary, by the topical application of strychnia. The patient (John Greenshields) an habitual drunkard, was about fifty years of age. The disease (situated in his right arm) came on suddenly. Sensation of the limb was perfect, but he was unable to take hold of any thing, or to extend the wrist and finger joints; he was free from any affection of the head. Being costive, an active purgative was administered, which had the desired effect: a blister was then applied to the back of the fore-arm, and one-eighth of a grain of strychnia sprinkled over the blistered surface. This article was applied daily, and slightly increased till it arrived to a grain, after which one-fourth of a grain was

added daily. From the second week he felt the parts improve in power daily, with an occasional sensation of prickling along the fore-arm and fingers—no evident constitutional effect ensued. He was discharged cured, five weeks from the commencement of the use of the strychnia.

In the case of another man, with palsy of the flexor muscles, and diminished sensation of the right leg from the knee downwards; a similar practice was pursued, with the same beneficial effect. He was dismissed, cured, after having been under the treatment six weeks. A French physician, Dr. Bally, is in the habit of treating cases of partial palsy in the above manner; and, according to his reports, with the same favourable results. In some cases he administered the article internally, without effect. The mode of introducing medicine into the system, by applying it to a blistered surface, termed the *Epidermic System*, we have particularly described in our last volume. Several cases of obstinate intermittent fever, cured by applying the sulphate of quinine to a blistered surface on the arm, have been published in France and Italy; and the editor of one journal has given the case of periodical tic douloureux that had resisted the usual remedies, which was cured in a few days by this practice. The treatment with strychnia is applicable to debility of the lower extremities, after frequent attacks, or a long paroxysm of gout or continued rheumatism.

GENERAL DROPSY.

We have lately met with a most distressing case of general dropsy, in which acupuncturation of the legs and thighs, with attention to the stomach and bowels, &c. succeeded in effecting a cure. The patient (a gentleman about 64 years of age) had not been able to walk or to lie down in bed for many weeks, in consequence of the chest, abdomen, and lower extremities being loaded with serum. The legs and thighs were acupunctured, and in the course of the day and following night, upwards of two gallons of serum escaped from the punctures. The exudation continued till the legs and abdomen were of their natural size, and the chest perfectly free from any sensation of oppression. In the course of a week after the operation, he was able to observe an horizontal position, and to walk about his chamber; and his sleep, which had been previously very short and disturbed, became sound and refreshing. With the view of invigorating the absorbents, a little mercurial ointment was well rubbed about the ankles, and flannel rollers applied to the legs. Three table spoonsful of the following mixture were administered three times a-day, which had the effect of improving the appetite and increasing the secretion of urine.

Take of Essential Salt of the Round-leaf Cornel, 1½ drachm;
Compound Spirit of Juniper, one ounce;
Infusion of Buchu Leaves, seven ounces.—Mix.

The fox-glove, squill, and calomel, either combined or alone, produced such a distressing nausea, and such a general sense of debility, that it was thought prudent to discontinue them, and on this account mercurial friction was employed.

SUSPENDED ANIMATION, *(asphyxia.)*

In a memoir presented to the Royal Academy of Paris, M. Leroy condemns full inflation of the lungs in cases of suspended animation. He related some experiments on rabbits and sheep, to prove, that "air driven once with force into the lungs occasioned sudden death, and that by full inflation suddenly made, the pulmonary cells are ruptured. In some cases air was found in the blood-vessels and cellular substance of the lungs. The rapid distension of the stomach with warm water, and the sudden removal of it, by means of an instrument made by Mr. Read for the purpose, by agitating the thoracic viscera, and at the same time diffusing caloric through them and the abdominal contents, are of much greater consequence in cases of suspended animation than inflation of the lungs. By inflating the lungs with cold air, the heart is robbed of the chief vital stimulant—caloric, which the object of treatment should be to increase.

The application of warm water to the head, warm lavemens, and dry friction on the surface of the body with warm flannel, and occasional compression of the ribs, are powerful auxiliaries to the rapid injection and ejection of warm water. Indeed, besides electricity or galvanism, and occasional agitation of the body, what more can be done to bring the vital organs into action ?

ASTHMA, &c.

The saturated etherial tincture of *Lobelia inflata* has been very generally prescribed in cases of spasmodic asthma and difficulty of breathing, attended with insufficient expectoration; and from the numerous reports we have received of its effects, it has been uniformly attended with the same happy results as noticed by Dr. John Andrew, of Glasgow, and the American physicians. In some cases which have occurred in our own practice, it has acted like a charm, in subduing the spasmodic constriction in a few minutes. It not only allays the irritation about the glottis, but promotes expectoration. For the chronic winter-cough it is also an excellent remedy. Smoking the herb is a powerful preventive of the paroxysm. The dose of the saturated etherial tincture is from thirty to forty drops in a glass of camphorated julep, or a cold infusion of rosemary or peppermint tea.

CÆSARIAN SECTION.

About six years since, we noticed a case of deformity of the pelvis of a pregnant woman, at Great Malvern, in which, on labour taking place, it was found necessary to make what is termed the Cæsarean section. The operation was performed by Mr. Walden, an experienced accoucheur residing on the spot. The child was alive, but the mother, who was in the last stage of dropsy, died a few days after delivery. When we visited Malvern, a few days ago, we had the pleasure of seeing the child in a good state of health. By the *timely* and skilful performance of the operation, the life of the child was saved; and had not the poor woman been in the last stage of

dropsy, judging from the contracted state and healthy appearance of the uterus, and of the wound, it is probable she would also have done well.

THE THRUSH IN HORSES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

SIR,—The liberality and ability your pages exhibit, induce me to send you the following receipt for the disease of the foot of the horse, termed the thrush, which, even in the most neglected cases, I have found to effect a cure in the short period of a week.

Dissolve two drachms of nitrate of silver, with twenty drops of nitric acid, in six ounces of elder flower water, and then add two drachms of the saturated solution of nitrate of copper.

After the part has been well washed with a brush and dried, a little of this lotion is to be poured into the diseased part every night; after which, it should be plugged up whilst moist with a little tow or lint moistened with it. In cases of long standing, attended with a considerable discharge, I add three drachms of myrrh to this lotion.

The following lotion I have found a specific remedy for the disease of the skin of the dog, named the mange:

Dissolve three drachms of the sulphuret of potass in twelve ounces of water.—The parts affected should be well washed with this lotion every night and morning.

The insertion of this communication in your work will encourage me to become a frequent contributor.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

THOMAS JAMES.

Edinburgh, Sept. 10th, 1829.

CHEMISTRY, THERAPEUTICS, &c.

For the following remarks on the advantage of the glass bubble over the scale, in ascertaining the weight of mineral waters, we are indebted to the Rev. Mr. Cooke, of Great Malvern; a gentleman who, we believe, has paid more attention to the minute analysis of mineral waters than any chemist in this country.

"The Malvern water probably contains about three grains of soluble matter in a gallon. If therefore the Malvern water be weighed in a scale, in a three-ounce measure of water, no weight will be visible beyond the weight of pure water. But if a glass bubble be made to sink at above sixty degrees of temperature, and twenty grains of salt are dissolved in a pint of pure water, this bubble will swim at a temperature of ninety degrees; therefere thirty degrees of temperature are equal to twenty grains of salt in a pint of pure water. The mode of proving whether the base is upheld by a volatile or by a fixed acid is by concentrating the water; if the base be upheld by a volatile acid, no weight will be gained by concentration, for the base will be deposited; but if the base is upheld by a permanent acid, weight will be gained by concentration. Malvern water

was boiled; and when cold, the temperature was raised to seventy-five by warm water. The bubble, which sinks at about sixty degrees of temperature, swam when the water which had been boiled was raised to seventy-five degrees of temperature by warm water. This fact proved that the base in the Malvern water is held in solution by a fixed acid, and by the bubble swimming in an increased temperature. The water was concentrated, and then boiled with a solution of carbonate of potash, and the magnesia was visible. The sulphate of magnesia is known from the muriate by the loss of weight in cooling. If they are both at a saturated solution when hot, the muriate will retain its weight—the sulphate will lose one third of its soluble weight in cooling."

THE LABURNUM.

Mr. North, a scientific surgeon of London, has lately published a case of a child that was poisoned by eating the flowers of this shrub. In consequence of expressing his surprise at the fatal effects of the flowers, Dr. Anthony Todd Thompson addressed a letter to him, in which he says, Not only are the flowers and seeds of the laburnum poisonous, but also those of many others of the same natural family. Some French chemists term the poisonous principle of this "natural family" *cystisine*. This fatal occurrence points out the impropriety of allowing children to run over green-houses and shrubberies which contain shrubs or plants, with the properties of which the family is unacquainted—a practice which we believe to be very common, under the erroneous idea that the effluvia arising from them are salubrious.

CARRAGAHEEN.

This species of sea-moss, which we have briefly noticed in our Number for August last, is become a very favourite article of diet in cases of pulmonary consumption and for debilitated subjects, particularly children and elderly subjects. It imparts to water and to milk, on being boiled as there directed, a very strong and agreeable jelly; and from the numerous trials that have been given it by some eminent practitioners of Dublin, it evidently affords more solid nourishment to the system than any other jelly; and it appears, it has also evinced a peculiar corrective effect on scorbutic and scrofulous habits. The jelly, sweetened with the sugar of milk, as recommended in our Number for August last, is very pleasant to the palate, and is evidently easily digested in the stomach. As an article of diet for consumptive patients, we can assert from observation, that it is very superior to any gellatinous subject with which we are acquainted, and that mixed with the jelly of the arrow root it affords most excellent food for weakly or scrofulous children. Mr. Todhunter, of Dublin, to whom we are indebted for our first acquaintance with this article, informs us that it is, at some seasons of the year, very abundant on the Clare coast.

ROUND-LEAF CORNEL.

A bark has lately been hawked by the traveller of a wholesale druggist, among the druggists of London, as that of the round-leaf cornel. It is thin, very bitter, and of a light brown colour; whereas the true bark of the shrub is thick, nearly free from the bitter princi-

ple, and of a reddish hue. On account of the bark losing much of its peculiar virtues by drying, the extract made of the recent bark, is recommended by Dr. Robinson, and is employed by physicians and surgeons of America, who cannot obtain the recent bark. We have good authority for asserting, that there is not any of the true bark of the round-leaf cornel in this country. The extracts which have been sent to this country were made by a respectable chemist from the recent bark, of which its peculiar aroma and transparency afford decisive proofs. The essential salt of the round-leaf cornel, made by spontaneous evaporation of cold infusion and expressed juice, contains all its medicinal virtues; and the uniform results of the numerous trials we have given it in the cases for which Dr. Robinson recommends it, justify us in asserting that it is the most valuable tonic remedy that has been introduced into the practice of medicine. For elderly subjects, suffering from general or local debility, it is a most valuable tonic stomachic. For cases of fluor albus, gleet, and debility of the bladder and rectum, it is also an invaluable remedy. The essential salt is soluble in wine, and in the proportion of three drachms to a bottle of any sound wine, as sherry or Madeira, it forms an excellent tonic wine, three table-spoonsful of which may be taken two or three times a-day.

CHIRAYITA HERB.

We have received several cases of indigestion arising from morbid excitement of the stomach, attended with general nervousness, head-ache, &c. &c. for which, this remedy, as recommended in some of our late Numbers, was administered with complete success, which we are obliged to omit for want of room. As a dinner pill, the composition of the extract of chirayita, extract of rhubarb, ginger powder, and dried subcarbonate of soda, (noticed in a late Number,) is highly extolled by several correspondents.

MISCELLANEOUS.

IMPERVIOUS LEATHER.

A correspondent, residing in Bristol, requests us to insert the following receipt for rendering leather impervious to water:—

Take of Frankincense, one ounce;
Olive Oil, four ounces;
Oil of Turpentine, twelve ounces.

Dissolve the frankincense in the olive oil by gently boiling, and when nearly cold, add the turpentine.

He directs a little of this mixture to be well rubbed into the inside of the shoes or boots before they are worn, about every second day for a week, and once outside. For ladies' shoes, supposing the smell of the turpentine may be unpleasant to their delicate olfactory organs, he advises two ounces of the oil of spike lavender to be added. This composition, he says, will not only render the leather completely impervious to water, but also supple, and protect it against the caustic quality of the fashionable shining blackings of the day. He particularly recommends it to sporting gentlemen, and those who suffer from corns or bunions.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

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MEDICAL BIOGRAPHY.

OF BARTHOLOMEW DE SANCTIS, M.D.

Late Professor of Mathematics in the University of Rome, Licentiate of the College of Physicians of London, &c. &c. &c.

IN our last Number we promised to treat our readers, in our present one, with a biographical sketch, literary, and critical, of Dr. Paris, a "Cambridge Fellow" of the College of Physicians, who modestly pretends to be more competent to practise medicine than the graduates of the Scotch universities, in consequence of possessing a knowledge of all the *collateral* branches of *natural philosophy*. The announcement of our intention, immediately after giving sketches of two such eminent members of the profession, as Sir Astley Paston Cooper, Bart. and William Lawrence, Esq. having excited much surprise among some of our subscribers, we think it necessary to state that we did not select him for any supposed eminence in the medical or scientific world, but because his parentage, education, acquirements, &c. &c. afford us an excellent opportunity, not only to elucidate the various forms of quackery, regular and irregular, but to trace their origin and ramifications, which for many years have spread through every department of medicine, to such an extent as to prove a formidable impediment to the progress of medical science, and to act most injuriously on the health of his "Majesty's liege subjects."

In consequence of Oxford and Cambridge medicine, or, in other words, the medicine of the College of Physicians, remaining stationary, the progress of medical surgery, which now embraces the whole practice of medicine, and the superior medical education of general practitioners, patients are completely at a loss to ascertain what class of medical men is most deserving of implicit confidence. One class accuses the other of empiricism; and nothing now-a-days is heard but the cry of quackery. That the men to whom the charter was originally granted by Henry VIII. were a set of grossly ignorant, domineering, and pedantic quacks, and that most of those whom they prosecuted as impostors, and excluded from practice, possessed more *practical* knowledge of the healing art, we think no man of sense acquainted with the history of medicine in this country, will for a moment deny. Has the quackery or false pretensions of the College terminated? and if so, when did that desirable event happen? Certain it is, no set of men in this metropolis is more liberal in the application of the epithet *quack* than these "fellows." The graduates of the Scotch universities are denominated by them, "*alieni homines*," and deemed unfit to practise in difficult cases, although their medical knowledge is equal, if not infinitely superior to that of themselves. At the time the degree of M.D. is conferred on them, they possess the

experience which is necessary to form the physician. Can this be said of the medical graduates of either of the English universities? In fact, will any person acquainted with Oxford or Cambridge say that either is a medical school? And if they are not, do not the heads of them sanction quackery, by granting degrees to those who are unacquainted with medicine? As to their empty silly boast of possessing "*all* the lights of the collateral branches of natural philosophy," do they throw any *light* on the nature, causes, or treatment of disease? Do they enable them to recognize a disease which they had never an opportunity to notice? Out with such nonsense! say we. Ignorant indeed must that person be, who can consider such a boast in any other "*light*" than humbug—a humbug which has been but too successfully carried on in this country under the cloak of a dead language. If a surgeon interfere with a case strictly *medical*, he is by this class accused of quackery. If a general practitioner make a charge for attendance, rather than to require his patients to take a draught every three hours, besides boluses, pills, &c. to remunerate him for his time and trouble, he is accused of quackery. If a medical man, who is not a "fellow," write a book on popular medicine, let its merits be ever so great, he is denominated a quack, although not a volume has issued from any of the body themselves within the last fifty years, which was not written for *popular* reading. Will any impartial person say that Dr. Bree's book on Asthma is not chiefly, if not entirely addressed to those afflicted with the complaint, and as much a bait for a fee as Doctor Solomon's *Treatise on Nervous Complaints* is an advertisement for the sale of his *Cordial* Balm of Gilead? May not the same be said of Paris on Diet, in which book popular medicine is introduced? What says the conjoint labour of these *learned* "fellows"—their pharmacopœia? Is it chemical? Would it not disgrace a society of general practitioners? In fine, although the charter of the College of Physicians was granted for suppressing quackery and promoting medical science, has not this body encouraged the very spirit of empiricism, and thereby prevented the progress of medicine? The institution, which was originally monkish, is still governed by monkish laws. The by-laws which every licentiate on bended knees is required to swear to observe, although kept in ignorance of them, sufficiently attest the "*sacred and liberal* principles" which regulate this monopolizing body. We have deferred the life of Doctor Paris in consequence of having found his contemptible works too voluminous to get through since our last publication; but as we are "in duty bound," to our readers and the public, to exhibit this "fellow of all the lights of the collateral branches of natural philosophy" in his genuine colours, we shall endeavour to perform the task in an early number. At present, we offer the following extraordinary and diversified life, with the view of exposing the cruelty and iniquity of "*all* the fellows" in demanding money from licentiates, and to excite the feelings of our benevolent readers in favour of a truly unfortunate man, as well as to acquaint foreign physicians, several of whom are now attempting to practise in this metropolis, that this is not that land of gold and freedom, which it is generally regarded on the continent.

Dr. Bartholomew de Sanctis was born of highly respectable parents,

in the neighbourhood of Rome. After receiving a classical education, and serving an apprenticeship to an apothecary, he went to Padua, where he applied himself to the study of all the branches of medical knowledge, and prosecuted, with a rare degree of ardour, mathematics and the higher departments of philosophy. Having resided the usual time at this celebrated school, and passed the ordinary examinations, he took the degree of M. D.

He then repaired to Rome, where he settled as a physician; and here his extraordinary acquirements in mathematics, his general knowledge, and his excellence as a physician, combined with pleasing manners, soon procured him an extensive practice. He was afterwards appointed Professor of Mathematics in the University of Rome. Notwithstanding the extent of his practice, the duties of his chair, and his ardent love of the study of mathematics, he found time to cultivate various studies, and particularly physiology, pathology, astronomy, poetry, music, and the dead languages. In the latter he made so great a proficiency, that he was considered the first Latin and Greek scholar in the Italian states. At Rome he might have lived respected and happy, but his mind was naturally too noble to allow him to remain a silent spectator of the efforts made by Pius VII. and his cardinals to enslave, by preventing the diffusion of knowledge and the enaction of bad laws, the human mind, and to perpetuate that system of ignorance, superstition, hypocrisy, and vice, which form the very foundation of the Catholic religion, and which have ever been more conspicuous within the walls of Rome than in any other part of Europe. Dr. de Sanctis, although brought up as a Catholic, detested the farces and immorality of the religion, and hoped to see the day when more rational principles would be inculcated from the pulpit of St. Peter's, and when the diffusion of knowledge would exert its influence over the Romans, probably the most ignorant and debased people which now exist among civilized nations. Detesting the bigotry and superstition of the Roman government as incarcerating the human mind, and rendering his fellow-subjects an easy prey to imposture and slavery, he evinced a spirit of independence which rendered him obnoxious to the Pope, who kept such a *surveillance* over him, as to interrupt his favourite pursuits. His mind being of too noble a character to permit him to sanction doctrines which he knew were intended to debase the human intellect, he resigned his chair as a professor, and determined to spend the residue of his life in a country where the human intellect is allowed to expand and pursue its favourite studies without the fear of popish interference.

It may here be stated, that he hailed with pleasure the invasion of the Italian states by Napoleon, for he conceived that the great talents of that extraordinary man, would lead him to overturn the system of imposture, hypocrisy, and ignorance, which had so long exerted its baneful influence on "the Garden of Europe;" but when he found that his object was only to increase his dominions, and benefit his own immediate country, he conceived as a great a hatred for him as he formerly had held him in admiration.

Considering England the most free and enlightened nation in the world, about the year 1808 he embraced the opportunity of accom-

panying the brother of the celebrated Prussian, Baron Von Humboldt, as his physician, to London. Here he was soon introduced to the Duke of Sussex, with whom, for several years, he was in the habit of dining three times a month. He had the good fortune, through the interest of his patron, to be appointed Physician to the Danish Embassy. He also obtained an appointment at the Opera House, where his powers of composition in the Italian language were found useful. Through this appointment he was frequently consulted, particularly by his own countrymen. Having now a prospect of getting into practice, he was persuaded by a fellow of the College to obtain a license. Supposing that it would give him some rank in the medical profession, and consequence among his immediate connexion, he offered himself for examination, and being found competent, the College granted him a license; but the Doctor not having the command of a greater sum than 30*l.*, he could not pay the charge of the College, of nearly 70*l.* The liberal censors, however, agreed to take the 30*l.* and a bill for the remainder at two months' date, accepted by one of his countrymen!!! a *liberality!!!* highly creditable to a body of philosophers, although it would have been disgraceful to a corporation of shoemakers!! The bill not being paid when due, the attorney of this liberal body threatened him, and his friend the acceptor, with legal proceedings!! Neither the Doctor nor his friend being able to muster the sum, the attorney, probably from shame, agreed to take a renewal of the bill, giving him to understand, that if not honoured, the Doctor's license would be abrogated!!! In no other part of Europe is a demand made for a license to practise physic; and the high charge for one by the London College operates to the injury of the inhabitants of the metropolis, by excluding foreigners of superior talent and experience from practice. Medicine being in its infancy, and numerous discoveries being daily made in some branch of the healing art, in different countries, the exclusion of physicians of experience, (if properly educated) from practice within the limits of the jurisdiction of the College, acts to the injury of "his Majesty's liege citizens," for the protection of whose health the charter of the College was originally granted. To an Englishman, the sum demanded by the College for a license may appear a trifle, but to a foreigner, and particularly an Italian, it is a fortune. The Doctor was so inconvenienced by the demand of the College, that he was afterwards never able to pay his way; for although sometimes he had several Italian patients, yet according to the custom of the middling ranks of their country, he never received any thing from them but an invitation to dinner. About this time the Doctor formed a connexion with a French chemist, settled in New Street, Covent Garden, who agreed to make him an allowance on his prescriptions, which supplied him with pocket-money. The chemist becoming a bankrupt, the Doctor lost this source of ready money. At this period of his life he visited many foreigners of distinction in London, as well as the Dukes of Sussex and Devonshire, and many others of the English nobility. The Earl of Bristol and Lord Holland engaged him to instruct some of the members of their families in the Italian language.

About this time the Doctor fancied he had made some discoveries which would overturn the doctrines of Newton. These he published

in the *Philosophical Magazine*. He also communicated some papers to the Humane Society on the best means of resuscitating bodies apparently drowned. Owing to his independent spirit, the Doctor now lost his employment as instructor in the noble families mentioned above, and became so much inconvenienced, as to be under the necessity of betaking to a garret, and becoming valet to himself. His apparel now getting shabby, he was obliged to discontinue his visits to the higher classes, and in a short time he was forced even to quit his garret. Instead of spending his nights in a bed, he now passed them in the park; occupied, when the moon shone, in contemplating the celestial bodies, and when they were not visible, in sleeping under a tree. In the morning, to quiet his stomach, he took the bark of trees, and when hard pressed by hunger, frequently made a repast on the green grass!! During this time of distress, he often went without any other meal than what the park afforded for several days together. On meeting the son of a political lord, to whose family he had given lessons in the Italian language, he was informed, on inquiring after his father, that he was at his seat in Leicestershire, where he would be glad to see him. The Doctor immediately determined to visit his Lordship, and accordingly marched off with his telescope for Leicestershire, living by the way chiefly on raw vegetables, and at night sleeping in the fields. On arriving at his Lordship's mansion, he was told by the servant that his Lordship was not there, and that he had not been there for many months, and that he was at his residence near London. Without receiving any refreshment, the Doctor left the mansion, and determined to return to London by way of Oxford, that he might see the Colleges there, and receive some assistance from the Professors. Being shabbily dressed, he was only permitted to view the exterior of the buildings, and from the heads of them, he received nothing. Here, for a few shillings, he disposed of his favourite companion, the telescope, to provide some more solid nourishment than what the green fields and hedges afforded. Between Oxford and London, being very fatigued, and his feet much blistered, he took a seat on a stage coach, for which the coachman, on his arrival at the hotel in Piccadilly, demanded the sum of seven shillings. The Doctor having no money, the coachman threatened to take him to a police office, to which the Doctor made no objection. After much "dunning," during which the Doctor evinced the greatest *sans froid*, the coachman allowed him to depart. We have noticed this part of the life of Doctor de Sanctis to show the cruelty of this scion of a noble house playing off such a hoax on a distressed man. The nights now getting cold, the doctor's misfortunes became so afflicting as evidently to disturb his mind; and at one time his existence was so intolerable, that he made an attempt to terminate it, which was prevented by the servant of the writer of this article, who had not only occasionally fed him for some years, but had also clothed him and supplied him with money. About this period, when his mind was evidently unhinged, he wrote a note to the Duke of Wellington, offering his services to the country, either as a medical officer or a private soldier. His Grace not having noticed his application, he considered himself insulted, and accordingly broke one of the windows of Apsley House, through which he introduced a note, containing the expression, "Answer or fight—

Bartholomew de Sanctis." The noble Duke, although informed that the Doctor might perhaps do him some bodily injury, with his usual intrepidity and nobleness of mind, disdained to take any notice of him. The doctor also supposing that the Duke of Devonshire had slighted him, sent his Grace a kind of challenge, by transmitting to him a bent sword.

Through the humanity of a magistrate of Marlborough Street Police Office, (Sir George Farrant) the Doctor was sent to Saint George's workhouse, where he found himself more happily situated than he had been for a long time. Here he spent his time in reading some old newspapers, and discussing politics with his companions, to whom he paid as marked attention, and as great politeness, as if they had been noblemen. The parish officers, considering that he had no claim on them, took him to the Police-office in Marlborough Street, to ascertain his real parish, when it appeared, from his own statement, that he belonged to that of St. Pancras, to the workhouse of which he was accordingly removed. His examination and distresses having appeared in the London papers, some benevolent people transmitted money to Sir George Farrant for him. The humane Mr. Webb, then at Paris, sent Sir George 10*l*. The money being given to him, the Doctor soon quitted the workhouse, and having purchased a few articles of apparel, the Doctor was "himself again." His money was, however, soon expended, and at this time he is again an inmate of Saint Pancras workhouse, with a mind far from being in a sound state, and with no other property than his "College License," which was the cause of his ruin, and which is not worth to him so many farthings as he paid pounds for it.

Thus we have traced a man of splendid talents and extraordinary acquirements through a career as singular and unfortunate as any that has ever been recorded. Had he never taken a license from the College he might now have been in extensive practice, and benefiting the public by his talents, instead of lingering unnoticed and unknown in the wards of a workhouse. What a picture of wretchedness does this man's history display! It ought to be a beacon to all foreign physicians, several of whom are at present starving in this metropolis, of the difficulties they may have to encounter when attempting to establish themselves in it. And what a dreadful specimen is here exhibited, of the melancholy consequences of the cruel extortion of the London College of Physicians!

If the talents and knowledge of all the "fellows" were put into one head, they would not form another De Sanctis. On the illiberality, injustice to individuals and the public, and pernicious effects to medical science, of the abuse of the charter of the College of Physicians, we might enlarge to a great extent, but we think nothing can more fully expose the selfish conduct of the Fellows than the melancholy history which we have just concluded. We shall take occasion to offer a few comments on the by-laws when we publish an account of the life of Dr. Paris.

Were we inclined to moralize on the uncertainty of human fate, the life of Dr. de Sanctis would afford us an excellent occasion. In him, talents and acquirements of a high kind, although they procured for

him reputation and notice, were unable to command in this land of milk and honey, even the necessaries of existence. At one period of his life we see him a professor in one of the most celebrated universities of Europe; at another time, high in confidence and friendship with princes and nobility; then we find him houseless, and living on the produce of the fields; and lastly, we have traced him till, his mind giving way from his accumulated misfortunes, he has found an asylum in a workhouse, among the poorest and most ignorant of men, and in a foreign land!!!

But we shall leave others, better qualified for the task, to moralize on his melancholy tale; for ourselves, we shall be content if we have exposed the ruinous consequences of the selfish by-laws of the College of Physicians, and if we have stirred up in the minds of our benevolent readers, compassion for one of their victims!

The life of poor Dr. de Sanctis certainly does not confirm the truth of an old popular saying, that "learning is better than house or land," because

> "When house, and land, and all are spent,
> Learning is most excellent."

ON THE PHYSICAL AND MORAL MANAGEMENT OF CHILDREN.

By Dr. Dewees, of Philadelphia.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 565.)

On the Nursery.

A rocking-horse of a good size should also be an appendage to a nursery—this article, however, should be considered as a *luxury*, or its use will be abused by becoming too familiar; it should therefore only be introduced occasionally, and that as a reward for good conduct. This will teach children to find their seat upon a saddle much easier than they would otherwise do, when they are placed upon the back of a living horse.

Slates and pencils afford much employment, as well as amusement to children—it gives them the habit of making letters and figures very early, as well as calls forth their imitative powers in rude attempts to copy any of the objects of nature or of art which may present themselves. For the same reason, I would indulge children in the use of paper and lead pencils.

To children of proper age, dissected maps, and Chinese puzzles, or tangrams, are very acceptable, and highly useful: they exercise the memory, elicit ingenuity, excite a laudable ambition, and give the habit of patience and perseverance in their various attempts to correctly dispose of the one, or discover the various combinations of the other.

A quantity of regularly shaped pieces of wood, of various sizes, should also be given to them; these they will arrange, and that sometimes with great ingenuity, into houses, temples, churches, &c. and thus become sincere admirers of each other's skill, in forming these mimic but evanescent buildings, the destruction of which they ardently

wish for the instant they are formed; and whose sudden demolition, by a stroke of the hand, affords the highest gratification, because they can construct another with almost as much celerity. (Q. Does not "demolition" give children a taste for demolishing useful things, or, in other words, encourage their naturally mischievous dispositions?)

A set of nine-pins and balls of proper size afford great pleasure, and serve to divert as well as to exercise them; for both of these are highly important, when the weather prevents their being taken into the open air. By affording them opportunities to exercise their skill, they forget they are confined; and thus is prevented that peevish discontent, called *ennui*, by which they are sure to be assailed when they have nothing to exercise their muscles, or their minds.

I might enumerate a number of other sources of amusement to children, but every parent almost will supply the deficiency, as the necessity for variety may present itself. I do not, however, approve of sharp-edged or pointed instruments for children—they can serve no possible use, and may be productive of serious mischief. I have known the loss of two eyes from pointed instruments; and a number of severe wounds from sharp ones.

The nursery should be as free as possible from air-holes or crevices, that the children may not be exposed to *partial* draughts of air; and that the air of the room may be preserved in winter of a pretty uniform temperature. Attention to this will enable the children to play in every part of the room without injury; and it will also prevent the desire to crowd round the hearth, which will diminish the risk of their clothes taking fire, or doing themselves other injury.

Too much care cannot be taken to guard against the accident of the clothes taking fire; there is but one security against this, when an open fire-place is the means employed for warming the room; namely, by dressing the children in worsted garments, or at least the outer ones—that is, the frocks and aprons. It is but too common to disregard this important precaution; and the accidents are numerous in consequence of the neglect. Many are in the habit of dressing their children in proper materials as regard their body clothes; but seem altogether to forget, that if these be covered by a muslin or linen apron it may take fire, and do serious mischief; it is therefore not sufficient that the under garments be made of woollen materials, if these be surmounted by an inflammable substance.

Children that begin to run about, as well as older ones, are almost constantly in the habit of having sharp pointed sticks for playthings; and nothing is more common than to put an end of one of these sticks in their mouths, and run with it when it is in this situation, at the risk of doing great mischief to the mouth and throat, by its being violently driven into them by the force of a fall. My friend Dr. Physick related to me a case of lock-jaw, and death, from this cause; and I have witnessed many less severe accidents from the same source.

It is also wrong to permit children to run about the nursery barefooted, or in their stocking feet, especially if the floor be covered by either carpet or mat; as it every now and then happens that they run into their feet, needles, pins, nails, glass, or other sharp substances, that may be concealed in the floor covering.

e introduction of glass into the nursery should be avoided as
as possible; as a constant liability to accident is incurred, by its
broken, and strewed over the floor, and by the children tread-
pon or handling the pieces.
annot recommend too earnestly the frequent ventilation of the
ry. The best possible method to purify the air, is by the admis-
of fresh air from without; this should be done at least daily, by
ng the windows and doors for a short time. During the process
ntilation, however, the children should be removed from the
ry, or protected by a screen from the immediate *current* of air;
e former is the better plan, as children are not always obedient
wishes of their nurses, and may expose themselves very impro-
. This ventilation should not be performed if the weather be
as the damp air might prove more injurious than the air intended
removed.
sand should be strewed upon the floor of the nursery, as it is
s inconvenient to walk upon, as well as furnishing a great
ity of very fine sharp dust, which is very injurious to the eyes
the floor is swept, or it is otherwise disturbed.
me have recommended fumigations of vinegar and other sub-
es, for purifying the air; this is neither necessary nor availing,
ially as the fresh external air is preferable.
e air of a nursery should be maintained at a pretty uniform tem-
ure—for this purpose, a thermometer should be a part of the
ure of every well appointed nursery. It should be placed remote
the fire, and not to face it; as it may, if so situated, give a false
ition, as it will be necessarily affected by the radiant heat of the
It should never exceed 66° or 67° of Fahrenheit. The thermo-
should be placed out of the reach of the children, or it will be
ly destroyed.
m fully persuaded that the excessive heat of nurseries has occa-
d a great mortality, especially among very young children. In
rst place, it over stimulates them; and in the second, it renders
so extremely susceptible of cold, that every draught of cool air
igers their lives. They are kept in a constant state of perspira-
which is but too frequently checked by an exposure to even an
phere of moderate temperature.
ildren should never be left alone; their helpless condition
es constant care, especially when very young. They should
be left to themselves while feeding, as they may choke for want
per and timely assistance; nor should they be placed upon a
or table, unless they are well watched. The children of the
very often meet with serious accidents, from the necessity the
rs are frequently under to leave them for a time to take care of
elves. A friend lately related to me a fatal accident arising from
ause, which may perhaps serve as a warning to those who are in
abit of leaving children alone, when there is no absolute neces-
do so. A poor woman, who had been spinning upon a large
, was obliged to leave the room for a short time. Before she
she placed her child (an infant who could not walk) upon the
some distance from the wheel. She presently heard something

fall, and her child to scream violently—she ran instantly into the room, and found the poor infant transfixed to the floor, by the spindle of the wheel passing entirely through its body. She supposed the child had pulled at the thread she had been spinning, which was sufficiently strong to overset the wheel.

Animals should not be left with children when alone, for both dogs and cats may be provoked to do mischief, if too rudely assailed by them. Cats, by common consent, are driven from the sleeping places of children, under an apprehension that they will "suck the children's breath." If this phrase mean any thing, it is that the cat can produce suffocation, by arresting either the ingress or egress of the air—a thing altogether impossible, unless the animal should have sagacity enough to stop both the mouth and nostrils at the same time; for should the mouth be closed, respiration can be carried on through the nostrils; should the nostrils be obstructed, it will go on through the mouth.

When a night lamp is burned, it should always be placed in the chimney-place, or immediately before the door of a stove, that the smoke may be carried off. If this be not done the air of the room becomes loaded with lamp black, to the great injury of the lungs.

It is not a matter of indifference in which direction the light falls upon the child; young children eagerly seek it with their eyes; and if it do not fall directly upon the face, the eyes will be strained to the direction in which it is strongest. In consequence of this the muscles will contract the habit of moving the eyes in an oblique direction, which may terminate in squinting. On this account, all objects capable of attracting the attention of the child from the vivacity of their colours, should never be presented to them sideways, or immediately over their heads.

I have already forbidden washing or ironing, or any other operation, being carried on in the nursery, which shall load the air with vapour; as it will necessarily expose the children to colds, coughs, or other severe affections of the lungs.

OBSTINATE COSTIVENESS.

Mr. Sydenham Bryant, an army surgeon of the United States, has published a case of costiveness of ten days' standing, in which the frequent exhibition of an antispasmodic lavement succeeded. The usual treatment by active cathartics, particularly lavemens administered by Read's lavement apparatus, with a long elastic tube, having produced no effect, Mr. Bryant was induced to attribute the obstinacy to spasmodic constriction of the muscular coat of the colon and rectum. He accordingly ordered the patient, after a copious general bleeding, to be placed in a warm bath, and a draught of rectified oil of turpentine, with olive oil (of each half an ounce), and half a drachm of calomel, to be administered, and afterwards a lavement composed of half an ounce of assafœtida dissolved in a pint of water, with two table-spoonsful of ether to be exhibited every two hours. Having previously taken calomel, the dose of thirty grains speedily produced salivation. All the lavemens were retained. The day after com-

mencing the antispasmodic lavemens (ether and assafœtida), a copious discharge of a dark jelly took place from the rectum, which was soon followed by copious fæcal evacuations. "He then," says Mr. Bryant, "convalesced rapidly;" and at the time he wrote his communication, he was as healthy a man as any in his regiment. Previously to the use of the ethereal fœtid lavement, and copious bleeding, clysters of an infusion of tobacco had been freely employed; but although they produced nausea and considerable prostration of strength, they had no evident good effect. We are only acquainted with one case of constipation, in which a clyster containing ether (a table-spoonful) was administered, and in that instance the rarification of the ether, or conversion of it into vapour, was so rapid and considerable, as to produce a most distressing state of distension of the bowels. The gas, which escaped upwards in considerable quantity, had a strong ethereal odour. In the case published by Mr. Bryant, twelve ounces of assafœtida, and twelve ounces of sulphuric ether, were administered clysterwise before any other evacuation than gaseous took place!!! The common antispasmodic lavement of the London hospitals is composed of assafœtida and oil of turpentine, well blended with gruel, to which some practitioners add, in cases attended with acute pain, a drachm of laudanum.

BLISTERED SURFACES.

Dr. Merril, of Natchez (Mississippi), in a letter to Dr. Meigs, of Philadelphia, states, that he has found finely carded cotton to heal blistered surfaces, either from the blistering plaster, from boiling water, or from burning, and to allay the pain more rapidly than from the applications in common use. When it is desirable to heal a blister, the Doctor recommends the cotton to be applied (half an inch in thickness, and sufficiently large to absorb the discharge) immediately on removing the blistering plaster. This dressing he has found to give no pain, and, in ordinary cases, to heal the surface in two days. The speedy effects of carded cotton in allaying the pain of superficial burns and scalds, and in healing the surface, for the knowledge of which we were first indebted to a scientific lady residing near Halstead, we noticed in one of our early Numbers, and the article having been copied into some of the American journals, we suspect Dr. Merrill was induced by it to give the practice a trial.

SCROFULA.

The celebrated Professor Hufeland, physician to the king of Prussia, in his late treatise on scrofula, under the head of topical treatment of local scrofulous affections, judiciously observes, "We break up the habits of nature when we *suddenly* disperse, by means of *topical* applications, long standing local affections, and it is not rare for the constitutional malady to concentrate in some interior part of the body, and thereby produce engorgements and suppurations, or in other words, new morbid productions, as if to indemnify herself for those which have been removed by art." "This," says the professor, "is an occurrence which I have often witnessed, after the retrocession of a cutaneous eruption or scrofulous inflammation of the eye,

or after amputation of a scrofulous joint." These facts the professor forcibly points out, in order to convince surgeons of the necessity of correcting the constitution before they have recourse to discutient applications or a surgical operation; and also of the propriety of establishing an issue to keep the system healthy after the dispersion of a scrofulous tumour, healing of a scrofulus ulcer, or removal of a scrofulous limb, &c. The best *practical* view a young or inexperienced practitioner can take of a *local* scrofulous affection, is, in our opinion, to consider it a symptom of the system being over saturated with scrofula, or that the local affection is an overflowing, which, if stopped before the excess in the system is properly diminished, will break out in some other part of the body. We do not mean to assert, that scrofula is produced by specific poison or even by a morbid condition of the fluids, or that local affections are the consequences of an over-saturated state of the system with either; but merely as a view, which, in our opinion, is likely to lead to a judicious, general, and local treatment. Not only the necessity of correcting the scrofulous habit previously to the employment of decided discutient or other topical remedies, have we frequently pointed out to our readers, but also of preparing the stomach and bowels for the exhibition of the constitutional corrective, particularly iodine, which we believe to be an *antiscrofulous* medicine. To insure the success of a specific remedy, the stomach and bowels should be corrected, and the article administered with such adjuncts which the general state of the system (in regard to nervousness, irritability of the heart arteries and whole muscular system, &c.) may indicate, and which will not destroy its specific property by decomposing it. From inattention to such preparatory and auxiliary treatment, specific remedies, by acting injuriously, or by producing no beneficial effect on the disease, have fallen into disuse.

FOUL ULCERS.

M. Jacques has found the resin of aloes more speedily and effectually to deterge foul indolent ulcers, and afterwards to accelerate the process of healing, than myrrh, or any of the terebinthinate articles in common use. He particularly recommends the following formula:—

Take of Resin of Aloes, one ounce;
Bees-wax, four ounces;
Olive oil, five ounces.—To be blended by gently boiling for a few minutes.

The preference being generally given to the aqueous extract of aloes as an aperient, in consequence of its not irritating the rectum: the *resin* of aloes may be obtained at a much cheaper rate than extract.

RHEUMATISM.

M. Lafosse, an eminent surgeon, of Montpellier, details two cases of acute rheumatism, which were cured by the internal use of a solution of tartarized antimony (emetic tartar), after local and general

bleeding, aperient and other sudorific medicines, and emollient poultices to the affected joints, had failed to produce even the slightest relief. The dose of tartarized antimony was gradually increased from a quarter of a grain, till it produced nausea and copious perspiration. The editors of the *Philadelphia Medical Journal*, in a note to this communication, say, that the tartarised antimony is now much prescribed by the physicians of the Philadelphia Dispensary, in cases of acute rheumatism, with the most decided advantage; in some cases subduing the disease in two or three days. At the Hereford Infirmary, the same preparation of antimony was often prescribed by the late Dr. Campbell (about forty years since), in cases of *acute* rheumatism, and its salutary effects were generally very speedy and permanent. In *chronic* rheumatism, although the dose was increased till it excited nausea, it uniformly failed to give any relief, and in elderly or weakly people it often proved very injurious by considerably reducing the vital powers.

EPILEPSY AND CONVULSIONS FROM DENTITION.

Drs. Arminan and Jahn, of Switzerland, have published several cases of epilepsy which were cured by the powdered root of the solanum palestre, administered every five hours, in the dose of ten to twenty grains, according to the age and degree of nervousness of the patient. They recommend the dose to be gradually increased till it arrives to double the quantity of the first. In some cases they say this effected a cure in a few weeks, but in others it required as many months. Dr. Schmultzeger, who has given it an extensive trial, forbids its use when obstruction exists in a viscus of the abdomen; and Dr. Jahn says he has found it to aggravate the paroxysms of epilepsy when plethora or excessive nervousness prevails.

In cases of convulsions attendant on difficult dentition, the powdered root, in the dose of two grains every four or five hours, Dr. Arminan says, has an immediate good effect.

CHRONIC AFFECTION OF THE BRAIN, &c.

A very interesting case of a young man, about eighteen years of age, is related in the *Transylvania Journal of Medicine*, by Dr. William Judkins, of Ohio, whose intellects from infancy had been very feeble and dull, and constitution very delicate. During the warm weather of summer he became deranged, and occasionally complained of pain in his head, and was at times feverish. Low diet, and depleting and febrifuge medicines, with mercury, having had no beneficial effect, and the patient becoming more insensible, sometimes lying in a state approaching to catalepsy, Dr. Judkins, after much reflection, determined on having recourse to trephining. On removing the portion of the skull-bone, he found the dura mater in a state of chronic inflammation, but there was no discharge of serum or matter. The following day the discharge was so very considerable as to run through the pillow and bed. From this time he became convalescent both in body and mind, and in a few months his general health was good, and his mental faculties much better than they ever had been.

Dr. Guild, of Alabama, has published a case of epilepsy arising

from a disordered condition or partial disease of the brain, in which he had recourse to trephining with success. In this case the dura mater was not inflamed, but as soon as the wound began to discharge, the fits and pain in the head ceased. In thirty days the wound healed; and at the time the doctor made his report, many months after the operation, the patient continued free from the malady.

It has often struck us forcibly, that trephining (an operation attended with very little pain and less risk), would prove very beneficial in cases of epilepsy, dependant on a morbid condition or partial disease of the brain, as well as of palsy of one side of the body (hemiplegia), and continued head-ache, with a fixed pain within the skull.

HOOPING COUGH.

Some years since, Dr. Kahlless recommended to the attention of the faculty (in *Horn's Archives*), a combination of the deadly nightshade, ipecacuan and flowers of sulphur, as a specific remedy for hooping-cough. Professor Hufeland, in a late number of his journal, says, he has found this composition very efficacious in hooping-cough. The following is a translation of the professor's prescription:—

Take of the dried root of the Deadly Nightshade, in fine powder, 4 grains;
Dover's sudorific powder, 10 grains;
Flowers of Sulphur, two scruples;
White Sugar, two drachms.

To be well mixed, and divided into twenty papers; one to be taken every three hours, and between each dose a tea-spoonful of the following mixture:

Take of Syrup of Liquorice, two ounces;
Simple distilled water of camomile flowers, one ounce;
Prussic Acid, eight drops.—Mix.

Dr. Meyer, of Minden, says that he never fails to cure hooping-cough speedily, by the application of morphine (half a grain mixed with a little finely powdered starch), sprinkled on a small blistered surface (the cuticle being removed) over the region of the stomach every night. In some cases its curative influence has been so speedy that it seems to act like a charm. When the habit of the patient is plethoric, abstraction of blood by leeches, applied over the region of the stomach, or to the temples, is much recommended.

INCIPIENT WHITE SWELLING.

Mr. Bayle has published a case of "Incipient White Swelling," in which the tincture of iodine, administered in the dose of twenty drops, twice a-day, in a wine-glassful of water, and the application of a liniment composed chiefly of a solution of iodine, as the following, succeeded in effecting a cure:—

Take of Barbadoes Tar, two drachms;
Iodine, twenty grains;
Oil of Almonds, two ounces.—Mix.

To be gently rubbed over the affected joint every night and morning, or three times a-day.

TIC DOULOUREUX AND PERIODICAL HEAD-ACHE.

Dr. Wetherill, an eminent physician of Liverpool, has treated two cases of confirmed tic douloureux by the sulphate of quinine, in doses of from five to ten grains three times a-day. In one case (a delicate female), the paroxysm recurred daily about one o'clock, and continued very severe for four hours. After taking the medicine three days the paroxysm did not return, and she remained free from the malady. In the other case its effects were not so satisfactory. He has also successfully prescribed the sulphate of quinine in the same dose, in cases of periodical head-ache and nervous tooth-ache.

CROUP.

The following remarks on the nature and treatment of this very formidable disease, lately published by Mr. Wakley, are particularly worthy of the notice of our medical readers, because they come from a scientific practitioner, (Mr. John Kemble, of Knowle, in Warwickshire), who has had unusual opportunities of observing its phenomena, and of attending to the effects of medical treatment. The only liberty we shall take in transcribing the communication, will be to translate the prescription into English.

"I shall possibly incur animadversion for presuming to submit to the public, however briefly, the crude opinions of a country-practitioner, and I anticipate that many well-informed persons will not coincide with my conclusions; but I feel confident that the motive which has led me to trespass upon your valuable space, will be an adequate apology to all those whose approbation I am desirous to obtain. I have, for a long time, been in the habit of using a formula in the treatment of croup, which has been attended with remarkable success. It has, in consequence, acquired some little local reputation; and it will, I trust, be pardoned me, for preferring a fair and extensive trial through the medium of your pages, to the partial utility, doubtful justice, and perhaps ultimate neglect, which it might obtain from private communication.

In this district, from local causes, the croup is unusually prevalent; and it has fallen to my lot, partly from the success alluded to, to witness more specimens than commonly occur to one person. We have also, at times, abundance of the *bastard croup*. It is unnecessary here to dwell upon the symptoms, which, under the name of the former, do with the ordinary treatment, so often lead to a fatal termination; but there can be no doubt, that if activity of "antiphlogistic practice," and prompt attention, only, were requisite, the results would be far otherwise than they are reported to be, as there are very few infantile maladies, to the rapidity and danger of which, the public and the medical profession are more sensibly alive. I have been induced to think that the fatality in croup is mainly attributable to an erroneous pathology, and, consequently, to the misdirection of our attentions in the mode of treatment; and death appears to me to be produced, at least in the generality of instances, not by the systematic violence of the peculiar pellicular inflammation, nor by the, often trifling, quantity of plastic effusion which attends it, but to be directly owing to the spasm which is obviously present, and operative, at least, to a certain

extent, in every case. That the actual straitening of the oreal aperture by false membrane, is not generally the cause of death, there cannot be much doubt. I have never witnessed an examination after death by croup, where an opening has not been left, such as to lead those present to think it adequate to the further prolongation of life; and in the recorded cases of cynanche laryngea in adults, this circumstance is still more forcible, while it is a strong concurrent fact, repeatedly observed, that the fatality in croup is in no wise proportional to the extent of the tube affected, but rather correspondent to its site; those cases being most grievous, rapid, and fatal, in which the inflammatory process is developed directly upon the apparatus for contraction. Again, that inflammation in an open passage, lined by mucous membrane, and occasionally so limited as to leave but slight traces after death, should proceed rapidly to a fatal termination, by its effects on the system, is unsupported by analogy, and would be a very remarkable occurrence in the history of disease. I am, therefore, led to conclude, that the peculiar complex condition which we denominate inflammation, is not, in croup, the principal cause of death.

To preclude the admission of noxious bodies, nature has endowed the entrance of the lungs with a degree of irritability, very exquisite, even in the healthiest state. A morbid increase, or exaltation of the natural irritability, accompanied with afflux, (whether cause or consequence), and the symptoms arising from those two states, constitute inflammation. Morbid irritability, occurring in the muscular and musculo-ligamentous tissue, exhibits those phenomena of abnormal and irregular contraction, which we call spasm. Without canvassing their specific nature and difference, or the reciprocal power of each to produce the other in every case, it is evident that spasm is of very frequent occurrence in textures immediately subjacent to an inflamed organ, or associated with it in office. Whenever the mucous lining, or other texture near the extremity of an open passage, is inflamed, the muscles connected with it, and particularly those subservient to its closure, are sure to partake of the spasmodic condition. Inflammation of the urethra, inflammation of the neck of the bladder, and abscess in the vicinity of the rectum, are obvious examples; and the levator, the acceleratores, and the sphinctery, are excited to frequent and irregular contractions. The natural and morbid irritability of parts is, I believe, pretty generally, in a direct ratio to each other, exclusive of circumstances of situation.

In the part attacked by the croup, the natural aptitude to contract every moment for the purposes of self-preservation, is much greater than in the rectum and urethra; the apparatus is more complicated; the function is vital. A brief interruption, in the other cases but of little moment, is here, by the non-expansion of the great pulmonary receptacle, an obstacle to the return from the head; from that cause, an increased portion of the ascending current, unable to penetrate the cranium, is diverted, by the superior laryngeal branches, to the parts before oppressed; and thus the reflected consequence of the contraction of the aperture of the glottis by a spasm, is to aggravate its primary cause—a specific inflammation of the mucous membrane; that secondary effect is productive of still further spasm, and, after

repeated paroxysms, each depressing still lower the vital power, harassed by ineffectual cough, distressed for breath, and labouring at the heart, the little subject is destroyed. The immediate cause of death is, a condition of brain, which is inadequate to maintain the organic stimulation requisite for the continuance of those functions which constitute visible life; that state arises from non-oxygenation, the non-performance of which, in the very last act, is, perhaps, mainly to be referred to the presence of mucus, and in some degree, perhaps, to the peculiar effusion in the larynx and trachea. From the preceding view it follows, that were it possible, by the maintenance of narcotization, by the free use of antispasmodics, or by their joint co-operation, to effect the removal of spasm, to prevent any vexation but that arising directly from the inflammatory process, its course would be rendered milder, and it would probably re-approach to the nature of the common catarrhal affection, with which it always appears to commence. Time would be gained to establish some control over the local action by the ordinary means; and for the removal or consolidation of the lymph, nature might be freely trusted to her own resources. A trial of considerable magnitude has convinced me, that this view is substantially correct. The supposition of the important influence of spasm, derives confirmation from the success of the practice, which would be otherwise totally unaccountable. I am of opinion, that all the worst symptoms of the malady are attributable to the *spasm only*; that there is not any thing in the specific nature of the action present, nor in the parts affected (excepting their great readiness to take on spasm), which should *necessarily* produce a very heavy mortality; and I feel satisfied, that if, instead of combating inflammation, we resolutely, and from the commencement, address ourselves to subdue spasm, the termination of the great majority of the cases of croup will be far other than it has been. At all events, I can state distinctly, that in my hands the subjoined plan has been so remarkably fortunate, that I have scarcely seen a fatal case since it has been adopted; and it has been equally successful in the hands of other persons at a distance, who have been supplied with the medicine. It possesses the rare advantage of making *no inroads upon the patient's strength*; for I have frequently seen a child at play, and, to all appearance, as well as ever *on the third day*, after having had all the symptoms of true croup. And it may well be demanded, Of how few children could that be said, if they were merely subjected to the ordinary treatment *without any malady?* Bleeding "freely" with leeches, and perhaps from the arm, blistering the surface of the neck, applying caustic to the fauces, drastic purging, calomel by cart-loads, and antimony "*usque ad nauseam*," are quite enough to exhaust the life of an irritable and delicate infant. I never bleed or blister a child in croup; I have never thought it requisite to do so, since I have adopted the plan alluded to, although such an auxiliary practice would be in no other respect incompatible, than as tending to invalidate the general strength. The treatment I allude to, consists in confining the child to a uniform and rather warm temperature, giving an emetic of ipecacuanha, and, in an hour after, commencing the following mixture:—

Take of powdered Valerian Root, two drachms;
Oxymel of Squills, one ounce;
Tincture of Opium, twenty drops;
Distilled water, one ounce.—Mix.

I administer a tea-spoonful every hour, if the child is from two to five years old; if from five to eight, every five-and-forty minutes, so as to maintain the anodyne effect of opium, and the sub-nauseating expectorant, antispasmodic effects of the squill and valerian, until the symptoms are removed, which commonly happens in ten or twelve hours, and which I have never seen protracted beyond eight-and-forty. On their subsidence, I have, in general, given a brisk dose of calomel and jalap.

This plan will also be found exceedingly efficient in hooping-cough; and I can state, that when it is uncomplicated with tubercular disease I have found my method more certainly and more speedily of use than any of the numerous procedures which are recommended. In a violent special catarrh, accompanied with convulsion or spasmodic cough, it was but natural to infer that an anodyne, expectorant, antispasmodic, would be useful; but it is a curious proof how little analogy is to be relied on in therapeutics, that its administration in spurious croup, (a disease to all appearance wholly spasmodic,) is infelicitous, and, in fact, inadmissible. In that malady I have experienced most beneficial results from the internal use of arsenic, or sulphuret of potass, aided by regular attention to the bowels, the shower-bath, spinal vesication, or anodyne spinal friction. In conclusion, it may not be wholly useless to point out the difference between the *spurious* and *true croup*. Croup always commences with symptoms of catarrhal inflammation of the mucous membrane; sturmatation; coryza; slight short cough, hoarser or shorter than natural; and, perhaps, slight tenderness upon the anterior part of the neck. This first state may last a few hours, or several days, *but is never wholly wanting*. It is followed by that condition which is commonly known as "croup," short clangous cough, (of an intonation peculiar to itself, and well known, but little capable of comparison,) occurring by paroxysms, accompanied with sibilous or stridulous inspiration, as if the air passed through a narrow aperture. During the exacerbation, the face swollen and purple; the eye, protruding and livid; the lips, with all those appearances of suffocation which supervene to any hindrance of the pulmonary circulation; persistance of the stridulous respiration between the paroxysms; and, after a gradual increase of these symptoms for one, two, three, and sometimes, after their protraction, even so late as six or seven days, labour of the respiratory muscles, small, quick, intermittent pulse, relaxation of the capillaries, accumulation in the great venous reservoirs, stupor, and death; although this last often takes place accidentally, in the progress of the malady.

Bastard croup (the "pseudo croup" of the French; the "laryngysmus" of Mason Good; the "acute asthma" of Millar; the "spasmodic croup," or "suffocating nervous catarrh" of others), is an ailment which varies much in the severity of its symptoms and the periods of their return. It often appears in the form of what the mother calls a fit, and several times in the course of a day; it occurs to the child

(when in perfect health, or labouring under slight catarrh only), upon its commencing to cry, while laughing, on being tickled, on suddenly awakening from sleep, in short, on any slight excitement. It appears to consist entirely in the distressing anxiety and struggle for breath, occasioned by spasmodic closure of the glottis, and terminates in a long drawn noisy inspiration, after which the child is as well and playful as if nothing had happened, although death is by no means unfrequent during the spasm; but in its *severest* shape, this malady for the most part occurs *at night*. Then, aggravated by fright, and perhaps modified by some peculiarity of the muscular or nervous system, it is accompanied by cough, short, dry, and sonorous, accompanied with appearances of suffocation, like croup; and, towards the end of the paroxysm, the child is often left pale, covered with sweat, and with livid lips, as in the last stages of that complaint, the voice being left rather hoarse, and the respiration stridulous for some time after the paroxysm. The symptoms then subside gradually, often to recur upon the following night in a lighter degree, and run a course not unlike that of ordinary catarrh. The diagnosis consists in the suddenness of the attack, and the inverse order of the severity of the symptoms, with the persistance of the suppressed or altered voice, and stridulous respiration between the paroxysms, together with the general appearance of the child, so well known to those who have seen many specimens; but the discrimination is difficult, and there can be little doubt that the maladies have been often confounded, or that many of the reputed cures of croup are, in reality, cases of the spurious kind."

RETENTION OF URINE.

Mr. Wakley relates a case of retention of urine which lately occurred in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, under the care of Mr. Earle. The patient (Charles Windsor) had suffered very much from stricture of the urethra for about twelve months, which continued gradually to advance till he was only able to evacuate the bladder by drops. During his confinement in the Hospital a complete retention took place, and the bladder becoming enormously distended, with symptoms of inflammation, Mr. Earle made several efforts to introduce a catheter; but finding it impracticable, he punctured the bladder *above the pubis*, when about three pints of thick unhealthy urine escaped. He soon became much easier. The next day he was considerably better, after which, the pain &c. continued gradually to decrease, and the urine to pass freely through the catheter.

INFLAMMATION OF THE UTERUS.

Mr. Hughes, a respectable general practitioner of High Holborn, has communicated to Dr. Ryan, lecturer on midwifery and the diseases of children, at the Western Hospital, a case of inflammation of the uterus, (*hysteritis puerperalis*), which commenced a few hours after parturition. The patient, about twenty-two years of age, was of a spare delicate habit. As soon as the cause of her sufferings was ascertained, Mr. Hughes opened a vein of the arm, and quickly abstracted sixteen ounces of blood, ordered the

abdomen to be fomented, and an aperient draught (a solution of sulphate of magnesia in an infusion of senna) to be administered. The blood was firm and cupped, but slightly buffed. This treatment having produced little impression on the local affection, Mr. Hughes (about eight hours after the first bleeding) took sixteen ounces from a vein of the arm, and applied twelve leeches over the region of the uterus, after which, the draught, with five grains of calomel, was repeated. A large bread poultice was applied over the bites of the leeches. The blood taken from the vein, exhibited a firm buffy appearance, clearly indicating the existence of inflammation. The fomentation was repeated the following day. From this time the local complaint and constitutional disturbance rapidly declined, under the occasional repetition of the fomentation and application of warm flannel to the abdomen. "This case," says Dr. Ryan, "must prove highly instructive to the young practitioner; it shews the invidious manner in which hysteritis (inflammation of the uterus) may supervene." The treatment was doubtless judiciously proportioned to the nature of the affection. Dr. Ryan adds, "One half of the ordinary obstetric practitioners of the day would have pronounced the disease, as they do every pain in the abdomen of a lying-in woman, *puerperal* fever, and used depletion to a much greater and unnecessary extent." The Doctor might have added, and probably prescribed the oil of turpentine, by some practitioners considered a *specific* for this fever, and thereby considerably aggravated the local mischief.

FLUOR ALBUS.

We have frequently pointed out the varieties of mucous discharges from the vagina, denominated *fluor albus*, and the absurdity of the common practice of treating every mucous discharge, as a disease of debility or relaxation. In our *Supplement* to this work, which embraces the diseases to which females are subject, and in our *Medical Guide*, we have noticed the varieties which arise from opposite causes, viz. debility or relaxation, and increased excitement or inflammatory action, and have given instructions for the treatment of each. Mr. George Jewel, (whose practice is confined chiefly to midwifery and the diseases of females), in a paper lately published by Mr. North and Dr. Whatley, on fluor albus, observes, It must be familiar to the practitioner, that *every* discharge from the vagina, not sanguineous, is, among females, included in the term *fluor albus*, or leucorrhœa. It is also a popular opinion, that vaginal discharges have their origin in some constitutional or local debility, and are hence denominated a "weakness." "That such a term," continues Mr. Jewel, "should be employed to perpetuate an error in practice, is to be lamented; for, I believe, if we investigate its pathology, we shall find for the most part, general or local increased action to be the cause." A very common cause of an excessive mucous discharge from the vagina, Mr. Jewel has discovered to be chronic inflammation of the neck of the uterus, and which, he thinks, in consequence of being mistaken for cancer, either no or inefficient remedies are prescribed. It is generally supposed, this chronic inflammation

occurs at the period, popularly termed, the "turn of life;" but Mr. Jewel has observed, that it more frequently exists in married women, from the age of twenty-six to that of forty, and very recently he has seen several cases occurring in young married females within three months after the birth of the first child. The local symptoms in both cases are very nearly allied, viz. occasional lancinating pain, more or less acute, through the region of the uterus, with a constant dull kind of pain about the inferior portion of the sacrum, the hip or groin, attended with an irritable bladder, and sometimes with tenesmus.

The object of Mr. Jewel's communication, he observes, is not to dwell on the usual treatment of vaginal or uterine affections, such as local abstraction of blood, perfect rest, opiates, warm-bath, &c.; but rather to draw the attention of the profession to a remedial agent, which he believes has never, or to a very limited extent, been employed in such cases, viz. the nitrate of silver applied to the seat of the complaint. This practice Mr. Jewel was led to adopt, from having so frequently witnessed the extensive and healthy changes, which have attended the application of the remedy to different mucous tissues when the secretion was morbid. The mode he had adopted, is either to conceal it in a silver tube, or in the form of solution, in the proportion of three grains of the nitrate to an ounce of water, the strength being gradually increased. A bit of sponge firmly and neatly tied to a piece of whale-bone, is to be moistened with this solution, and carefully introduced into the vagina to the *os uteri*. This mode of application, which can be readily used by the patient, Mr. Jewel has found preferable to injection. To secure a permanent good effect, he recommends the frequent employment of the topical application. After relating two cases, in which the topical application of the nitrate of silver succeeded in effecting a permanent cure, Mr. Jewel briefly notices a case, which, for some time, resisted all the means which had been tried by several eminent practitioners. At length the tincture of iodine was administered, under the influence of which, (with the application of the nitrate of silver), the disease gradually yielded, and the patient continued free from the malady.

Mr. Jewel concludes his communication with the just remark, "There is nothing more empirical, than to hold up a particular remedy as a specific in the cure of disease, or to expect it invariably to exert its curative influence upon the function or structure of an organ under all the diversified circumstances of morbid action." "Let it," says he, "be not imagined that I place such implicit confidence in the nitrate of silver as to expect it to eradicate, as if by magic, all such diseases as those to which I have adverted; at the same time, I confidently believe, that if it be *judiciously* applied, where the vaginal disease has its origin, or kept up by inflammation of the *cervix uteri*, or in the vagina, or by the irritable uterus, and when general principles have not been neglected, there is no remedy so likely to afford such *immediate* and *permanent relief*."

The topical application of the nitrate of silver, was, about twelve months since, much recommended by a French physician for irritative affections of the vagina. He was induced to give it a trial, under

the supposition, that the affections were dependant on a morbid condition of the internal cuticular surface of the vagina, and that by destroying it, he should effectually remove the cause. In cases of irritative fluor albus, the practice recommended by Mr. Jewel, is likely to prove very beneficial, probably by removing the morbid surface; but in cases of a morbid secretion, the consequence of chronic inflammation of the *cervix uteri*, particularly when there exists a disposition to schirrosity, we should condemn its use, but certainly not in opposition to the experience of such a minute observer and judicious practitioner as Mr. Jewel. We will, however, venture to assert, that the beneficial effect of the nitrate of silver, is not to be considered a proof of the complaint having been of an inflammatory nature; for whether the discharge be the consequence of increased or diminished excitement, the *topical* application of nitrate of silver is, in our opinion, likely to have a very beneficial effect. The internal exhibition of terebinthinate medicines, as balsam copaiba, cubebs, &c., we have found as beneficial in cases arising from increased excitement, as in those which are evidently dependant on debility; in the former acting as a sedative, probably by correcting the secretion; and in the latter as a stimulant. Why this class of medicines should, in different diseases, produce such opposite effects, we shall leave to the dreaming theorists to explain; we are satisfied with the facts. When we commenced Mr. Jewel's paper, we expected he would have taken some notice of the "dilator," recommended by Dr. Clarke for vaginal diseases, and that he would have *scientifically* explained its modus operandi. This mode of treatment, novel at least in this country, has excited the astonishment of some medical and other philosophers, and certainly affords a subject for the contemplation of the class of refined philosophers, who devote their time in discovering the frailties of poor human nature.

ASTHMA.

The editors of the *American Journal of Medical Science* very positively assert, on the authority of Dr. Hayward, an eminent physician of North America, that the prussic acid, so much recommended by Dr. Granville, as a valuable remedy for asthma, produces no beneficial effect whatever, in any of the varieties of asthma. The editors continue to extol the Ethereal Tincture of *Lobelia Inflata*, as a specific for spasmodic asthma and chronic cough. We have lately met with several cases of asthma that had resisted the usual remedies, on which this tincture had an immediate beneficial effect; in some instances of long standing, the second dose so completely subdued the spasmodic constriction about the chest, that the patient experienced a facility of breathing to which he had been a stranger for many years. Smoking the compound herbs of the lobelia, on the approach of dusk, as recommended by Dr. Robinson, in his Treatise on the Round-leaf Cornel, has uniformly proved highly beneficial.

CATARRHAL COUGH.

The consequences of taking many of the advertised Essences, Elixirs, &c. containing alcohol, opium, and a stimulating essential *oil or gum*, in producing inflammation of the pleura and lungs, and

general fever, have proved so serious, that at this period of the year we consider it our duty to caution our readers against such dangerous articles, and to recommend to them the composition of the inspissated white juice of the garden lettuce, extract of liquorice, gum-arabic, tolu, &c. first introduced into practice, by Professor Duncan, under the name of Lettuce Lozenges; which, by promoting expectoration and perspiration, allaying irritation in the internal membrane of the windpipe, and abating fever, speedily remove both the cause and effects, and which, at the same time, under any circumstances or condition of the system, are incapable of doing mischief. In all the elixirs, tinctures, essences, &c. advertised as infallible remedies for cough, which we have examined,—and we believe we have analysed nearly all of them, we have detected opium, combined with an aromatic, and alcohol. The opium allays the irritation in the wind-pipe, but by checking expectoration and disturbing the nervous system, they occasion congestion of the vessels of the lungs, &c., excite fever, and thereby often convert a simple case of catarrh either into pleurisy, inflammation of the lungs, or inflammatory fever. Trusting to the false promises of the unprincipled proprietors of certain cough-drops, elixirs, &c., many thousands have continued their use till disease has taken place in the lungs, which lays the foundation of fatal consumption.

NERVOUS HEAD-ACHE, &c.

Since the publication of our last number, we have met with three cases of nervous head-ache, of long standing, which were effectually cured, in the course of three weeks, by a mixture of the essential salt of the round-leaf cornel, &c. One of the patients (W. W. T. Esq.), about twenty-five years of age, had been subject to nervous head-ache daily for eighteen years, attended with excessive palpitation of the heart, general languor, occasional nausea, &c. and for which he had consulted some of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of London, from whose prescriptions (of bark, carbonate of iron, valerian, &c.) he derived no benefit. After taking the mixture of the round-leaf cornel* a few days, the complaint became very trifling, and in the course of a week he was perfectly free from it. During its use his appetite became good, his bowels regular, and his general health rapidly improved. The subject of the second case was a female, about forty-five years of age. The head-ache recurred daily, and at times run so high as to occasion an alarming degree of stupor. She complained of general debility. Having a great objection to medicine in a liquid form, she took two pills, three times a-day, composed of

* Take of the Essential Salt of the Round-leaf Cornel, 2½ drachms;
Tincture of Musk Seed, 2 ounces;
Subcarbonate of Ammonia, ½ a drachm;
Camphorated Mixture, 10 ounces.—Mix.

Some practitioners may be induced to attribute the beneficial effects of this composition more to the tincture of musk seed, subcarbonate of ammonia, and camphor, than to the round-leaf cornel; but these articles, combined in the same proportions, produced no beneficial effect till the essential salt of the round-leaf cornel was added.

the essential salt, with the dried subcarbonate of soda and ginger powder, in the following proportions.

Take Essential Salt of the Round-leaf cornel, two drachms;
Dried Subcarbonate of Soda and Ginger Powder, of each one scruple;
Tincture of Ginger, sufficient to form a mass.

To be divided into thirty-six pills.

These pills succeeded in re-establishing her health firmly in the course of three weeks. The third case was that of an elderly gentleman, who had been for many years subject to a nervous head-ache, occasionally attended with considerable stupor, ringing in the ears, general debility, and sluggishness. The mixture, which proved successful in the first case, speedily restored this patient to sound health. It had an immediate effect in invigorating his stomach, and even in regulating his bowels; after which the affection of the head rapidly gave way. We have also taken the same mixture ourselves for a nervous head-ache, with the same decided advantage.

CHEMISTRY, THERAPEUTICS, &c.

IODINE.

Dr. Wetherill, of Liverpool, speaking of the extent to which iodine may with safety be administered, a subject on which a great diversity of opinion exists among medical men, observes, (in a communication to Mr. Wakley), "My own experience has long convinced me, that this medicine, given two or three times a day, in doses of from fifteen to twenty drops of the tincture (prepared from ten grains of the iodine to one ounce of spirit) may be gradually increased to one drachm, without any fear of injuring the constitution; but if given too largely at first, or if too abruptly increased from a smaller dose, it causes nausea, burning, or other disagreeable sensations in the stomach, vertigo, head-ache, &c.; in one case it produced water-brash.

"In dropsical forms of disease, iodine will be found a most valuable medicine. In several cases of anasarca of the lower extremities, attended with ulcers, eruptions, &c. I freely administered the tincture; it invariably gave relief, and very frequently took away every vestige of the disease. For the ointment, prepared with one drachm of the hydriodate of potass to one ounce of hog's lard, applied assiduously to the part, accompanied by friction, and the internal use of the tincture, in dropsy of the ovaria, indurations and enlargements of the mammary, thyroid, and other glands, I know of no medicine of equal efficacy. I have treated asthma by large doses of the tincture with the best results. At present I am using it conjointly with an ointment made of the sulphate of zinc three ounces, hydriodate of potass one drachm, and spermaceti one ounce, spread on lint and applied to the ulcers, for one of the worst and most interesting cases of ulcerated legs I ever witnessed. The result of this case, of which I have taken a *drawing*, shall, in due time, be communicated to the public."

SIRUP OF WHITE POPPIES.

In consequence of this sirup, when made with sugar, according to the directions of the pharmacopœia, readily fermenting during the warm weather or in a mild climate, the chemists of Italy and France now employ the sugar of whey, (an article we noticed in a late number,) in lieu of the common or refined sugar. The sirup thus made has the very great advantage of not fermenting, even when kept in the shop during summer. In pectoral complaints, it has also the advantage of being more expectorant than the sirup made with sugar.

EXPRESSED OIL OF BERRIES OF THE SWEET BAY. (*Laurus nobilis.*)

A correspondent of Birmingham informs us, that in consequence of the short account we lately gave of the peculiar sedative properties of the essential oil of the "laurus nobilis," he has lately much used the expressed oil of the berries, commonly termed green oil of bays, (which contains the *essential* oil,) in numerous local irritative affections. He particularly recommends the following composition for irritative piles and leprous affections of the skin :—

Take of Expressed Oil of the Berries of the Sweet Bay; Citrine Ointment; Spermaceti Ointment, of each three drachms.—

Mix. To be applied to the parts affected every night and morning.

The following opodeldoc he particularly recommends for chilblains, and for rheumatic and other pains, or painful swelling :—

Take of the Spirit of the Berries of the Sweet Bay, two ounces; Walnut or Castile Soap, two scruples.

To be gently rubbed over the part affected for a few minutes by means of very fine flannel or cotton.

This spirit is made, by distilling a pound of the expressed oil in two quarts of water, with a pint of rectified spirit, and drawing over twenty ounces.

ARROW-ROOT.

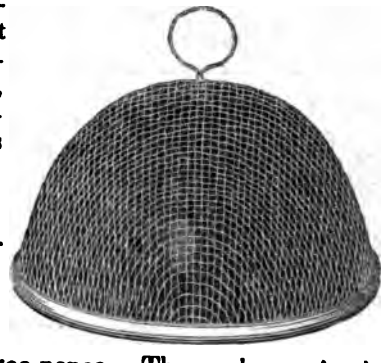
We have, by several experiments, ascertained that the arrow-root cultivated by Mr. Henry Sterne, of Jamaica, and sent by him to this country in small packets, from half-a-pound to two pounds, with his certificate attached to each, in order to prevent its adulteration, is very superior to any that has been imported within the last twelve months, and we are disposed to believe very superior to any that has been received since its first importation. It is on account of its superior quality, and his determination to maintain a character for it, that Mr. Sterne adopted the plan of sending the produce of his estates in packets with his certificate. The means of ascertaining the quality of arrow-root is so simple, that any person may put it to the test. It is merely to form a jelly with different specimens separately, taking care to use the same quantity of the powder and of water, and boiling them over the same fire and for the same period (one minute is sufficient), and then placing the jelly (covered over) in the same room for twenty-four hours. The degree of firmness of the jelly will, after that period, show its quality; that of the firmest consistence being the

best. Instead of attending to the misrepresentations of a set of avaricious retailers, who are not satisfied with a less profit than four shillings on each pound !! we advise those who are desirous to obtain the genuine article, to submit specimens procured at different shops to the above simple experiment; in which case, we have no hesitation in positively asserting that the result will be decidedly in favour of that sent to this country by Mr. Sterne. If we had not found it to be of a superior quality, we should not have ordered it to be kept at the Medical Hall, in Piccadilly.

The retail price is three shillings and sixpence a pound.

LEECHES.

Sometime since, we recommended to the attention of our readers a glass tube, for the purpose of applying a leech with great nicety to any part of the body, by confining its head to a spot. In consequence of the leech receding, and at other times fastening to the side of the tube, this mode of application has been very generally abandoned. We are happy to have it in our power, now to recommend a new invention, which we have found effectually to succeed, not only in confining leeches to the skin, but in insuring their immediate operation of puncturing and suction. It is made with brass wire, of the form and size as represented in the engraving. The leeches having a great antipathy to brass wire, attach themselves to the skin, and in general, immediately commence the operation of puncturing and suction. This representation is of the largest size, by which six leeches may be applied at the same time. There are smaller sizes for a less number of leeches, or for applying them to a part which will not allow of the proper application of the largest. The price of each is one shilling and three pence. Those who are in the habit of applying leeches, and consequently acquainted with the great difficulty of making them properly to bite, will know how to appreciate this invention. For domestic practice the discovery is so important, that no family of respectability should be without one of them.



The Egyptians adopt the following method of keeping leeches for *repeated* use:—Immediately on falling off, the leech is taken by the head and gently squeezed downwards between the thumb and fore-finger of the other hand, so as to force through its intestinal canal a portion of the blood. It is then put into water sweetened with sugar, in which it empties itself of blood. The sweetened water is renewed three or four times a-day, till it remains clear, when the leech may be reused. It is said that it bites, after this operation, with much greater avidity, and that the same leech may be applied every day, and that it will serve for three years. Mr. Rees Price, in his Treatise on the Leech, recommends a similar treatment, with the exception of employing river water instead of water with sugar.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SMOKING CIGARS.

The most despicable foppish practice of smoking cigars, which within the last two years has become very fashionable among the silly and demi-maniacal youths of this country, and particularly among the "flash classes" of the English universities, whose chief delight seems to arise from fooleries which act injuriously on their general health, or, as they imagine, to evince peculiar strength or firmness of the constitution, but which, in fact, evince only mental imbecility, has prevailed to such an extent among the pupils of Cambridge, in New-England, that its baneful effects in producing pulmonary consumption, mania, idiotism, &c., (putting its puppyism out of the question), have induced the worthy and able professor of the theory and practice of medicine and natural history, (Dr. Waterhouse), in that university, to conclude a medical course, with a lecture on the "evil tendency of the use of tobacco on young persons, more especially the pernicious effects of smoking cigars, and of the abuse of ardent and vinous spirits." The class were so delighted, as well as edified by the lecture, that they solicited the professor to publish it for the benefit of those youths, who, from the want of thought or from some silly vanity, had fallen into the folly; and such has been the demand for the publication, that it rapidly passed through five heavy editions.*

After commenting on the pernicious effects of the abuse of ardent and vinous spirits on the body and mind of youth, the lecturer proceeds to point out the evil consequence of smoking cigars. As this part of the lecture abounds with valuable remarks, we shall give it in his own emphatical language. "Among the causes, which act directly and immediately on the stomach, we mentioned, besides ardent and vinous spirits, certain narcotic substances.

"Narcotics are soporiferous drugs, which induce stupefaction. It is the property of narcotics to exhilarate first, and then to relax and stupify. They invariably debilitate the organs to which they are immediately applied; at length, they have a similar effect on the whole body, and particularly on the mind. At the head of this class of drugs we place opium, which is the milky juice that exudes from the heads of poppies, when incisions are made in them; and then gradually dried in the sun.

"The Turks, who were forbidden by Mahomet to drink wine, intoxicate themselves with opium. It is said that some will eat more than an ounce in a day. We have seen, that nothing so effectually preserves health and prevents disease, as maintaining the tone and regular motions of the digestive organs, provided other parts co-operate; and there is no drug in common use, which renders them so

* Mr. Miller, of St. James's-street, importer of American publications, has lately received a few copies of this very excellent work. We recommend it to the serious perusal of Professor Haviland, of Cambridge, and Professor Bourne, of Oxford.

torpid, and which so effectually disorders their functions, as the inordinate use of opium. After destroying the energy of the stomach, it undermines the powers of all the other organs in succession, even to the intellectual functions. Travellers inform us, that the visage and general appearance of the opium-eaters in Turkey is the most disgusting imaginable; even worse than our most abandoned rum-drinkers. Some of these miserable Turks have, however, mind enough left to destroy themselves by the dagger, to prevent living, or rather breathing, a few years longer in a state little short of confirmed idiotism; which is the fate of most of them during the latter years of their existence. Thus much for *opium*.—But what shall we say of *Nicotiana*,* our beloved tobacco?

"With what caution should a man proceed in attacking a favourite of the people? A *prudent* man, one who wishes to sail quietly down the popular stream, would be disposed rather to flatter and applaud the object of their affections. But an *honest* man, who differs a little from him, commonly designated as a prudent one, never flatters. He will give the true character of a dangerous inmate; and warn his friend of the consequences of cherishing a viper in his bosom. You already perceive, that although we would give 'fair play,' even to a treacherous enemy, yet tobacco has done, and is secretly doing too much mischief to expect any more from us, than a severe trial and rigorous justice.

"The great Linnæus has, beside his celebrated *artificial* classification, given us a *natural* one. In the *natural* arrangement, he has placed *tobacco* in the *Luridæ*; which signifies pale, ghastly, livid, dismal, and fatal. To the same ominous class belong fox-glove, hemlock, deadly-nightshade, and another poisonous plant, bearing the tremendous name of *Atropa*, one of the Furies. Let us examine one of them, viz. Tobacco, its qualities, and its effects on the constitution.

"When tobacco is taken into the mouth for the first time, it creates nausea and extreme disgust. If swallowed, it excites violent convulsions of the stomach and of the bowels, to eject the poison either upward or downward. If it be not very speedily and entirely ejected, it produces great anxiety, vertigo, faintness, and prostration of all

* Nicotiana, so called from *Jacobus Nicotius*, ambassador to the court of Portugal from Francis II., king of France. Nicotius bought some seeds of this plant from a Dutchman in 1556, who had just brought them from America. From this seed the plant was produced in France. Sir Francis Drake carried it to England; and Sir Walter Raleigh first brought it into fashion. The dried plant was afterwards imported in great plenty from Tobago, and hence it obtained the name of *Tobacco*, and the species most used is the *Nicotiana Tobaccum*.

Nicholas Monardus, a German, has written a folio on the virtues of tobacco. It is doubtless a valuable *medicine*, especially in cases where the *digitalis* has been used without success. An English physician, Dr. Fowler, used a tincture of tobacco in fifty-two cases of dropsy, and found it efficacious in forty-nine of them. The same physician found it very beneficial in *dysuries* from gravel. I have used it in such cases with satisfaction.

the senses; and in some instances death has followed. The essential oil of this plant is one of the strongest of vegetable poisons, insomuch that we know of no animal that can resist its mortal effects. These are, without exaggeration, some of the *lurid* qualities of your beloved tobacco! Let us now see, if it can be agreeable to the laws of the animal economy, or consonant to common sense, that a plant, with such qualities, can act otherwise than detrimental to the tender constitutions of *young* persons.

"The human organs are endowed with a faculty of selecting certain wholesome articles; and our digestive apparatus of assimilating and changing them into our own nature and substance. Besides this nutritive faculty, our organs are endowed with a repulsive one; with certain instincts or perceptions, by which they reject whatever is unwholesome or pernicious to our well being. These powers and faculties, purely instinctive, are more or less possessed by every *healthy* animal. Man, endued with reason, has these instincts in less perfection than the brutes.

"The organs of the senses are so many guards or sentinels, placed at those avenues where death is most likely to enter. For illustration;—let us suppose a man cast ashore on some uninhabited island, and roaming among unknown fruits and herbs with a desire to satisfy his hunger; he knows not whether, what he finds be wholesome or poisonous. What *naturally* follows? The first examination, which the vegetable undergoes, is that of the *eye*; if it incur displeasure by looking disagreeable and forbidding, even this may induce him to throw it away; but if it be agreeable to the sense of seeing, it is next submitted to the examination of the *smell*, which not unfrequently discovers latent mischief concealed from the sight; if not displeasing to the sight, nor disagreeable to the smell, he readily submits it to the scrutiny of the next guard, the *tongue*; and if the taste too approbate the choice, he no longer hesitates, but, eating it, conveys it into his stomach and intestines; both of which, like faithful body guards, are endowed with a nice perception and prompt action, by which, if what was eaten as wholesome food, should, notwithstanding all the former examinations, still possess a latent quality, injurious to life, the stomach is stimulated to reject it upward, or the intestines to expel it downwards. These internal perceptions and consequent exertions are the first and most simple acts of nature, being purely instinctive, constituting what physicians call the "*vis medicatrix naturæ*," or reaction of the offended system.

"Let us suppose, that our hungry adventurer had fallen on the tobacco plant; he would find nothing forbidding in its appearance; to his smell it would be rather ungrateful; to his taste so nauseating, that it is surprising, how the same man ever ventured to taste green tobacco twice; but if taken into his stomach, convulsions, fainting, and a temporary loss of his senses follow, accompanied with distressing nausea and vomiting. If that, which is wholesome, affect the senses of animals with pleasure, and invite them to convert it into their own juices; and if that, which is unwholesome, excite disgust in smell, taste, and appetite, then would our adventurer rank this herb among poisons, and note it as one of those which nature forbade him to use.

Yet man, by perverting his nature, has learned to relish it! and when perverted nature excites a desire, that appetite or desire is inordinate and ungovernable; for the reaction or physical resistance to evil will, like that of the moral, lessen in proportion to the repetition of the attacks; and then those guards of health, already mentioned, desert nature, and go over to the side of her enemy; and thus we see how intemperate drinking and immoderate smoking began their destructive career.

"The first effect of tobacco on those, who have surmounted the natural abhorrence of it; and who have not only learned to endure it, but even to enjoy it; and who have already commenced the offensive custom of chewing or smoking, is either a waste or vitiation of the *saliva*.

"The *saliva* or spittle is secreted by a complex glandular apparatus from the most refined arterial blood, and constantly distils into the mouth in health; and from the mouth into the stomach, at the rate of twelve ounces a day. It very much resembles the gastric juice in the stomach; and its importance in digestion may be imagined, after listening to the words of the great Boerhaave. 'Whenever the saliva is lavishly spit away, we remove one of the strongest causes of hunger and digestion. The chyle prepared without this fluid is depraved, and the blood is vitiated for want of it. I once tried,' says this great philosopher and consummate physician, 'an experiment on myself, by spitting out all my saliva; the consequence was, that I lost my appetite.' *Hence we see the pernicious effects of chewing and smoking tobacco.* I am of opinion, that *smoking tobacco is very pernicious to lean and hypochondriacal persons*, by destroying their appetite and weakening digestion. When this celebrated plant was first brought into use in Europe, it was cried up for a certain antidote to hunger; *but it was soon observed, that the number of hypochondriacal and* CONSUMPTIVE PEOPLE *were greatly increased by its use.* The celebrated Cullen says, a constant chewing of tobacco destroys the appetite by depriving the constitution of too much saliva.

"A king of Spain was afflicted with a very offensive breath; to remedy which the physicians advised his majesty to chew a composition of gum mastic, ambergrise, and other perfumes; the use of which occasioned a great expenditure of saliva. The courtiers, either out of compliment to their sovereign, or, what is more probable, from the vanity of imitating their superiors, went very generally into the same custom. The consequence was, thas those, who followed the fashion with most ardour, lost their appetites, and became emaciated; and *consumptions* increased so fast among them, that the practice was forbidden by royal edict.

"Some do not eject the saliva; but prefer swallowing the unwholesome mixture, which seldom fails to induce faintness, palpitations of the heart, trembling of the limbs, and sooner or later, some serious chronical inconvenience.

"After what has been said, who can doubt of the bad effects of constant application of powdered tobacco to the delicate membrane of the nose; especially if they know what a thin partition divides the olfactory cavity from the brain?

"I have been a professor in this University twenty-three years, and can say, as a physician, that I never observed so many pallid faces, and so many marks of declining health; nor ever knew so many hectical habits and consumptive affections, as of late years; and I trace this alarming inroad on your young constitutions principally to the pernicious custom of smoking cigars."

(To be Continued.)

PREVENTION OF FEVER.

Mr. Wakley has published the following judicious advice for the prevention of fever, communicated to him by a correspondent of London:—

No. 1.—Let your doors and windows be kept open in the day; if you have not a window in the back part of your house, make one; have them so hung as to be easily opened; have a chimney with a good draught, so as to encourage a free current of air through your house.

No. 2.—Remove dung and putrid matter of every kind from before and behind your houses, as the vapour and smell proceeding from them, (called malaria,) have been found by physicians to generate infectious fever.

No. 3.—Scrape your floors with a spade, and sweep them every day; also the yards before and behind your houses as often as you can; keep your hair cut short, and comb it every day; wash your hands and face; keep your clothes, furniture, and utensils, sweet and clean.

No. 4.—Don't go into any house where a person is sick, or has been ill of fever; don't attend the wake of any person who has died of fever; if you do you will be infected yourself, and will communicate fever to your family.

No. 5.—Don't let strolling beggars enter your houses, as they frequently carry infection from one house to another.

No. 6.—Whitewash your walls, inside and out, with lime slacked in the house, and while it continues hot and bubbling; let this be done once a month while fever is prevalent.

No. 7.—If fever attacks your family, as soon as the calamity is removed by recovery, or by death, employ the above means as soon as possible; burn the straw of the beds; put all the clothes of the house into cold water, wring them out and wash them in hot water, soap, and pot-ashes; let every box, drawer, chest, &c. be emptied and washed, and let the floor under the patient's bed be strewed with lime fresh slacked and hot. Let no person upon recovery go into a neighbour's house, nor into any public place of worship, for fourteen days.

No. 8.—REMEMBER!!! that cleanliness and good air will improve your health and strength, will check disease, and, UNDER GOD, will preserve you from all the variety of wretchedness and misery occasioned by INFECTIOUS FEVER.

NOTE.—Heads of families are strongly recommended to have a printed copy of this advice pasted up in their houses, and to enforce a strict observance of its instructions.

The gentry are advised only to give employment to such persons as carefully attend to the rules therein contained.

A strict adherence to this plan constitutes the sole means for removing the principal cause which generates typhus fever in Ireland, viz. the fetid smell (called "malaria") exhaled from vegetable and other substances in a state of putrid fermentation.

It is reasonable to hope, that every other cause will be eradicated by comfortable clothing, wholesome food, and good lodgings, which comforts can only be obtained through the medium of constant employment given to the poor.

ANATOMICAL INSTRUCTION.

We have much pleasure in giving the following extract from a letter we have received from Surgeon Bradford, of Tottenham Court Road, on this subject, because we know that the compliment paid to Mr. Edward Tuson is not unmerited.

"Being desirous to revive my anatomical knowledge as speedily as possible, I was induced to attend different lecturers on anatomy; but was peculiarly impressed with the mode adopted by Mr. Tuson, at the Medical Theatre, Little Windmill-street, in teaching that fundamental part of the science of medicine. After taking the utmost pains to rivet in the minds of his pupils the most exact and intimate acquaintance with the bones, as respects their structure and various relations, and subsequently concerning the muscles, he proceeds to describe the arterial and nervous systems; accompanying his demonstrations on the human body with suitable remarks, and the clearest elucidations, so that it is impossible that a student of the meanest capacity can fail to be made thoroughly acquainted with the subject.

"The improvement of his pupils is considerably facilitated by his manner, which displays an anxious solicitude that each of them should become equally acquainted with the subject as himself. He is always so willing to examine his pupils by a happy method of instruction, that he is never wearied by answering their repeated inquiries. In short, I can truly say, that that gentleman's school possesses such superior advantages above any other with which I am acquainted, that it would be injustice in me not to express my warmest admiration of it.

"Lectures being delivered on other subjects connected with medicine, cannot but render the Institiution still more worthy of general attention. Pardon me, Sir, if I have too much trespassed on your patience."

QUACKERY.

A correspondent informs us that the Solicitor to the Stamp Office has, within the last week, issued upwards of two hundred writs against retailers of patent or proprietary medicines, for having neglected to take out the annual license. It has been customary for many years for the superintendant of this department of Somerset House, to apprise, by letter, those who take out a license annually of their neglect, and many, in consequence of it, seldom applied till they received such intimation, which was about the latter part of November. This notice has not been given this year, and the solicitor has most *handsomely* taken advantage of a neglect for which the head of the license department is solely blameable. We hope this disgraceful proceeding will be spiritedly taken up by those against whom proceedings have been instituted, and by the public press.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

Vol. XIV.] To DECEMBER 1, 1829. [No. 168.

MEDICAL BIOGRAPHY.

OF DR. JOHN ELLIOTSON,

Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, &c. &c. &c.

THIS highly respected practitioner is a rare example of a Fellow of the London College of Physicians, being a well educated *medical* man; and the celebrity he has attained above almost all his associates, proves not less the faults of their education than the benefits of his own. To a naturally strong, liberal, and indepeudent mind, he has had the good sense to add the advantages of an education at a school, where medicine is cultivated and taught; and thus, although nominally a "Fellow," he is really a physician.

Dr. Elliotson was born in the county of Surrey, where his early education was conducted under the guidance of a private tutor. Having acquired a knowledge of the classics, and the ordinary preliminary branches of science, he repaired to Edinburgh, where he studied all the departments of medicine with great ardour and success. A stronger proof of his medical acquirements cannot be recorded than the fact of his having been elected a president of the Medical Society of Edinburgh, which is the arena where all the medical talent and knowledge of the modern Athens is displayed. After the usual course of study, he took the degree of M. D. His thesis on this occasion was one of the best written during the session. He then repaired to London, where he studied anatomy and surgery at Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals. He afterwards entered at Cambridge, with the view of becoming a Fellow, although he had already been admitted a licentiate of the College. In due time, having been long enough on the Cambridge list, he was admitted to the honours of the College. Nothing can more display the absurdity of supposing, that because a physician is a Fellow, he must be a man of superior *medical* education; for Dr. Elliotson acquired his medical knowledge at the University of Edinburgh, and never attended a single lecture at that of Cambridge, and yet he is declared by this arrogant body, to possess a superior education to those who have had precisely the same opportunities, with the exception that they have not wasted a few weeks in the dissipation of Oxford or Cambridge, in keeping what are called terms. That these universities may be good schools for acquiring a knowledge of the classics and general literature, we will not deny; but we are certain, that as places for obtaining *medical* information, they are worse than useless. They are not *medical* schools; and those practitioners, who were educated solely at them, are not physicians, if

the term physician signify the person who is acquainted with diseases and the art of curing them. That Dr. Elliotson is of the same opinion as ourselves, is sufficiently attested by the course he has pursued, in constituting himself a real physician; and we require no other proof of the soundness of his judgment than this fact. Dr. Elliotson, although a "Fellow," is really and practically a physician.

The Doctor, as we have already remarked, devoted great attention to anatomy and surgery; and he has published a translation of Blumenbach's *Elements of Physiology*, remarkable for its correctness; and the notes which he has added, show him to possess a superior knowledge of the subject of which it treats. The work has experienced an extensive sale, and is deservedly esteemed the best book and guide to those studying this necessary branch of medical science.

Dr. Elliotson has also paid great attention to pharmaceutical chemistry, and recommended many valuable chemical agents for the cure of disease. He was one of the first to adopt the sulphate of quinine, which, although surpassed in efficacy, as a tonic, by the essential salt of the round leaf cornel, is a most valuable remedy for intermittent fever, and periodical nervous affections. Possessing every qualification to render him an able physician, he was elected to conduct the medical practice of St. Thomas's Hospital, an appointment which opened to him a field for the display of his talents and acquirements. Here he has become remarkable for the prosecution of the study of morbid anatomy; for the excellence of his clinical lectures; and, above all, for the attention he has paid to the discovery and proof of the power of therapeutic agents.

The new medicines he has prescribed, not in a random way, but on cautious and philosophical principles, and the extent of his trials, has uniformly been such as fairly to afford a correct estimate of their value. Dr. Elliotson is a great ornament to the Borough schools; and he is unquestionably, although a "Fellow" of the College, one of the ablest physicians in the metropolis. He is extremely liberal in his principles; and although he found it his interest to become connected with the College, we believe he despises the acts and proceedings of that selfish and illiberal body.

From the talents, the scientific attainments, the experience, and liberality of Dr. Elliotson, we have no hesitation in asserting, that in the course of a few years he will be the leading physician of this metropolis; and so long as he remains an active member of the College of Physicians we shall not despair of a voluntary reformation, for the honour of the profession and the benefit of the public.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

SIR,—As your independent and extensively circulated journal has been the means of laying before the profession and the public, correct views of the pathology and treatment of diseases of the spine, I solicit a place in an early number, for the following highly interesting and conclusive case, both as it illustrates, in a striking manner, the propriety of my plan of cure, which has been recommended by you, and also because, by exposing the ignorance of medical men, of

the nature and treatment of spinal curvatures, it may perhaps stir up a more strict investigation into every circumstance connected with these dreadful maladies, by which the afflicted will be benefited.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Holles-street, Cavendish-square,
Nov. 12, 1829.

EDWARD HARRISON.

A CASE OF PARTIAL PALSY,

Affecting the Right Leg, cured by correcting the Lumbar Spine. By EDWARD HARRISON, M. D. *Edinburgh, &c.*

Master T. C———, nine years of age, of the sanguine temperament, and in possession of good general health, although he has a delicate constitution, with soft fine skin. He is afflicted with a curvature, six inches long, in the lower part of his back, which comprises the three last dorsal, and two upper lumbar vertebræ. All these bones have suffered a partial turn upon their axes, towards the right, by which the transverse processes, on that side, are considerably depressed, while the opposite ones are proportionately elevated. The remaining dorsal vertebræ are pushed outwards, and show the extremities of their spinous processes, singly and distinctly. He experiences great difficulty in walking a few steps, and is obliged to use crutches, when he goes further. The right leg is nearly useless, and is much shorter than its fellow. He cannot stand in an upright posture, unless supported, nor stretch out the right foot, even in bed. The great weakness and want of sensibility in this limb, are probably occasioned by the sinking, and partial turn of the luxated vertebræ, towards the same side, the nerves, in consequence of this displacement, issue from the vertebral holes at unfavourable angles; by this deviation, the nervous energy is impeded in its way to the affected members.

The distortion first showed itself three years and a half ago; the bones destined to form the protuberance were then merely turned towards the right, but not at all arched; three months subsequently a large issue was formed on each side of the last dorsal vertebra. After the issues had discharged a great deal of purulent matter, and weakened him very considerably, a slight elevation was first discovered between them. He persevered in the use of the recumbent position for nine months, and in the issues for the same period of time. Finding that the distortion continued to increase under this treatment, and that his strength rapidly declined, the issues were closed, and he went to Brighton for the benefit of sea air. No other means, except shampooing, and the application of blisters to the back, have been subsequently adopted. As the disorder commenced before the sufferer could give any particular information to his parents, they are unable to account for its origin, otherwise than by conjecturing, that it might proceed from the boy falling among some loose wood, a short time previous to the appearance of deformity. He complained a great deal at the time; but as the pain soon left him, the accident was forgotten, until the idea was revived by the distortion showing itself.

Besides the gentleman who made the drains, three eminent practitioners have been consulted at different times, who all approved of

the issues, and the copious discharge proceeding from them. They declared positively, that the cause of the complaint was wholly subdued, by the remedies employed. They also asserted, that although the protuberance could not be reduced, because the vertebræ were joined together by a bony connexion, it would never get worse. Notwithstanding, however, these positive assurances, and the incessant anxiety and care of the boy's distracted parents, the swelling visibly enlarged. In the state of alarm and despondency consequent upon this, I was applied to. After a careful examination of the parts, I gave it as my opinion, that so far from osseous union having taken place, the vertebral structure had never been affected; I stated openly, and without reserve, that the complaint was entirely fixed in the articulating fibrous compages of the joints, and that it admitted of an easy and speedy cure. Encouraged by this explanation and assurance, the boy was forthwith confided to my care, and I placed him in the recumbent position. I then proceeded in the usual way* to stretch the spine, and press the elevated vertebræ.—July 1, 1823.

The spinal swelling is greatly diminished, and includes only three vertebræ. He has nearly recovered the sensibility and use of his right leg.—October 4.

The tumour is reduced so much that only one vertebra protrudes; the transverse process may be easily felt on the left side.—November 17.

The lumbar spine having recovered its natural figure, and the inferior extremities their lost strength, the cure was pronounced complete, and the strengthening plan was adopted.—April 20, 1824.

Not having seen my old patient for the last three or four years, I called upon him this forenoon, and found him at home. He is become a tall stout youth, with a rosy complexion, and is in the enjoyment of excellent health; as the vertebral pillar remains in good order, he continues erect in his carriage, and perfect in his gait. His mother† reminded me of a promise made to her during the treatment, that I would publish the case. She urged my speedy compliance, from a benevolent desire on her part to encourage other helpless cripples to adopt proper means for restoring their health and usefulness. She wishes also to convince the incredulous, that the boy, instead of remaining a heavy burden and distressing object to his parents, now holds out to them the prospect of his filling a respectable station in society.—October 18, 1829.

Remarks.

I have, in compliance with the mother's wish, forwarded the above statement of the case, with the drawing, as they were originally prepared for insertion in an early number of the *Gazette of Health*, with the subjoined observations on the pathology of the disease.

The history of this case records the erroneous, though confident

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* See my Treatise on Spinal Diseases.

† The lady does not wish her name to be published, but if any persons desire to see her or her son, she has requested me to state, that she will be most happy to receive them.

prognostics, and declarations of several eminent practitioners. To their repeated asseverations, that the progress of the distortion had been arrested by the interposition of a bony union or anchylosis, the progressive advancement of the malady afforded a direct and mortifying contradiction. The gibbosity extended over five vertebræ; they formed an elevated arch, which bulging outwards, prevented the sufferer from raising himself erect for a single moment. The dipping of the right transverse processes, produced a permanent compression of the lumbar nerves at their exit from the vertebral notches on the same side. Hence, paralysis of the member, so long as pressure continued upon the nerve, was the result. The affected limb was fully two inches shorter than its fellow, owing to a corresponding obliquity of the pelvis. Whenever the spinal column gives way, it seldom remains correctly perpendicular. An inclination either way destroys the regularity of the pelvis, and agreement of the limbs. In the present instance, the deviation of the spinous processes being to the right, the arch necessarily turning to the left, produced derangement in the pelvis, and inaccordance of the lower extremities.

The disagreement of the limbs from this cause, although a frequent attendant on spinal complaints, had not, as far as I know, been observed till I pointed it out, and defended my opinion against some incredulous opponents in 1820. Since that period, others having adverted to the circumstance without reference to their authority, it is no longer doubted: still, the importance of the discovery is not clearly understood, nor have the mischievous consequences of this derangement been sufficiently exposed.

When lumbar deformity commences in a growing person, one of the lower limbs is generally blighted. It increases slowly, and, never arriving at the full size, it is in after life more detrimental than serviceable. Although the malady is usually confined to one extremity, I have seen examples, where both were so much shrunk and blighted, as to be nearly useless. I was lately consulted, along with a highly respectable physician, on the case of an amiable young gentleman of family and fortune, who was severely afflicted. Both limbs were disproportionately short, were unsuitably slender, and much too feeble to bear, unaided, the incumbent weight. As the spinal derangement had commenced in early life, we could not do much more than relieve his infirmity by a mechanical contrivance, applied to the enfeebled member. Although he had consulted many of the faculty, both in his own neighbourhood and in the capital, no benefit resulted from their exertions.

I can, however, assert, from my own experience, in similar instances, and from this case in particular, that a complete cure would have been accomplished, had proper means been adopted at the first. The limbs would then have increased together, and kept pace with the other members of his body. As it was, notwithstanding the long delay and postponement, we succeeded in removing several distressing symptoms, both internal and affecting the lower extremities, by restoring the lumbar concavity.

When we take into account the shoals of destitute cripples, from diseased backs or limbs, who stump about in jumbicks, or leaning upon

sticks and crutches, it is not merely an affair of real benevolence to allay their pressing wants, but the obvious policy of a well-regulated community to institute measures to lessen the calamity.

Whatever reluctance I may feel to solicit pecuniary funds for the purpose, I shall most cheerfuly contribute my gratuitous services to make the scheme effectual.

The facts above stated, although well known to Hippocrates, have been wholly disregarded by the moderns. He traced the lameness in these particular cases to vertebral distortion, while they, overlooking the true cause, imputed it to an affection of the hip-joint. By thus confounding maladies varying essentially from each other, and requiring different modes of cure, they neglected the affected part, and employed cruel and torturing applications to a sound organ. This mistaken practice, as might be expected, has led in numberless instances to irremediable mischief.

For a circumstantial detail of these forms of spinal suffering, and the melancholy effects resulting from the practice employed at present, I can only refer to my statement of a fatal case of paraplegia, with the dissection, which is recorded in the *Medical and Physical Journal.*

The barbarous and useless practice of opening issues is already less encouraged than formerly. It will, I am persuaded, ere long, cease to be numbered among the remedies applied for the cure of spinal curvature. When caustic issues or setons prove serviceable, more ought to be ascribed to the accompanying rest, than to the application.

Now, that an intelligible and perspicuous diagnosis has been established between diseases of the spine and the hip-joint, practitioners will in future be able, in these disorders, to follow more rational indications and successful treatment.

It is stated in the history of the case, that all the gibbous bones had "suffered a partial turn upon their axes towards the right." However difficult the explanation, the bones really presented in the manner described. Being myself unacquainted with any muscles in the lower part of the back capable of rotating the lumbar spine, I willingly leave the interpretation of the fact to the ingenuity and inventive imagination of Dr. Dods, along with the case formerly recommended to his notice in the Medical and Physical Journal, so long ago as the year 1825.

I stated on the occasion of referring to him, that the vertebræ were not pushed directly backwards, owing to the resistance of the spinous and interspinous ligaments; they must therefore of necessity take a slanting or rotating direction.

I do not intend to enter at present into a full detail of the arguments, pro and con, in regard to the doctrine advanced by Ward, Dods, and others, that curvature is the consequence of a deranged action of the muscles of the back, even without the coexistence of disease of the bones, cartilages, and ligaments. I may, however, here point out some of the errors which these advocates of an absurd hypothesis have fallen into. The most material mistatement which they have made, is that a wasting of the muscles of the back always precedes the curvature; and this is a symptom, say they, which appears first and solitary.

Now the fact is, that a wasting of the dorsal muscles *never* precedes spinal disease, but invariably is the consequence of it; it *may* precede, it is true, the curvature; but incipient disease of the bones or ligaments of the spine, generally the latter, is always present, although in some cases it may be difficult to detect it, before the attenuation of the muscles appears, which, when it does occur, is the result. The muscles of the back never become emaciated, without a corresponding diminution of all the soft parts of the body. Hence it might as well be said that the wasting of the gastrocnemii or glutei muscles, which, with all the other soft parts of the body are attenuated, produced curvature of the spine, as that the emaciation of the dorsal muscles was the cause of it. This mistatement is the basis of the muscular theory.

The advocates of this doctrine have asserted that the bones are pulled not to the side of the muscles which are contracted, but in the direction of the paralyzed muscles. Now this is so contrary to the known laws of mechanical and muscular action as to require only to be exposed to be disproved.

If the action of the muscles produced lateral curvature, how does it happen that there are generally two curves present in the spine? Thus if the dorsal portion of the vertebral column be curved to the right, the lumbar is curved to the left side. The muscles of the right side must here be contracting at the top and paralyzed at the bottom of their course, and vice versâ in regard to the left,—a supposition altogether monstrous.

But not only do the muscular advocates affirm that lateral curvature is produced by the derangement of the dorsal muscles, *i. e.* the action of some and paralysis of the others, but they would make us believe that even the gibbous spine (where, they admit, the bones or ligaments are diseased) is curved in consequence of the action of the muscles. The curve, in the above case, would, according to them, have been the result of the action of muscles: now none of the muscles of the back act to any extent on the lumbar spine; and if they did, how could they make the vertebræ project backwards? Muscles, in contracting, merely shorten themselves, and approximate their extremities; in what manner could they push the vertebræ backwards? If they pushed at all, they must push forwards or inwards; but anterior curvings of the spine are rare.

With regard to the statement of Mr. Shaw, that dislocation of the vertebræ never occurs, I have only to say, that it has been proved to be erroneous, and, I am sorry to add, willfully so, by the recorded fact of his brother-in-law and preceptor, Mr. Charles Bell, having in his museum, which Mr. Shaw was well aware of, the preparation of a dislocated vertebra, and upon which he publicly declared to his pupils, and has subsequently published the statement, that the luxation "was complete." Of these circumstances Mr. Shaw could not be ignorant at the time of writing his offensive mistatement; because it is well known that he *himself* made the post-mortem examination, and carried away the specimen which Mr. C. Bell exhibited when he used the words quoted.

The most distressing symptom under which this youthful sufferer laboured, when I first saw him, was the uselessness and torpor of his

right leg. It was more than two inches shorter than the other, not from any inherent or acquired defect in the member itself, but from the obliquity of the pelvis. This was clearly ascertained; because no sooner had the spine recovered its natural figure, and the pelvis its former level, than the two limbs corresponded in every part. Neither was longer than the other. They became from that time equally sensitive, strong, and active. Had the spine been suffered to continue unrelieved, the member would either have ceased to grow, or would have increased much slower than the other. It is to this cause alone that the greater number of stunted limbs, which are so prevalent and conspicuous in both sexes, owe their deformity and defects.

While constant pressure is made upon the nervous trunks, at their beginning, the organs to which they run are slowly and imperfectly developed. This is the natural effect of long endured compression, and where it remains unabated the limb is sure to be, through life, short, small, and crippled.

Nosologists have found it convenient, when treating of paralysis, to subdivide it into hemiplegia, affecting the body longitudinally; paraplegia, when the disorder strikes across the back; and partial, when its operations are limited to a few muscles or single member.

On taking a more enlarged view of these several species, at a suitable opportunity, I shall prove, contrary to established doctrines, that hemiplegia is not always cerebral: a remarkable example of spinal hemiplegia is now under my care, which shall in due time be made known.

I meet daily with examples of spinal paraplegia; but having never yet seen a single case of the cerebral variety, I am more and more inclined to contend that paraplegia always fixes its dominion in the vertebral pillar.

The subject of the present communication laboured under the third or last species of paralysis, and its seat was clearly in the lumbar spine. The commencement of his debility and impaired sensibility, their manifest dependance on the gibbosity, and their disappearance along with it, leave no doubt in my mind of their real origin.

After the happy result of my practice, in this and many similar instances, upon a species of lameness hitherto deemed irremediable, it is surely unnecessary to adduce further proofs of its success, in order to recommend its imitation on all similar occasions.

(To be continued.)

MEDICAL LITERATURE.

TOTTERING STATE OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON.

Sir Brooke Faulkner's Address to the Duke of Wellington, and his Letters to the President of the College of Physicians on the state of that body.

"The march of intellect" has completely exposed the ruinous results to science of the by-laws of the College of Physicians, to the exposure of whose arrogance, disgusting selfishness, and ignorance, *we have* devoted many a page of this work. The profession at large

have long despised its laws, as fit only for fools and sycophants; while the public, by placing confidence in men of experience and talents, without regard to the school where they were educated, have shown how little they respect the Fellows of "all the collateral lights of natural philosophy."

Although the College of Physicians, from its arrogance and insufficiency, has been long despised by all well-informed men; we did not anticipate that any of its members would have had honesty enough to state openly, what the President and Fellows must all be convinced of. Such, however, is the force of truth, that Sir Arthur Brooke Faulkner, a Fellow of the College, has published the statement, that the body does not perform the offices for which it was constituted, that of suppressing quackery and encouraging medical science; and that its Fellows have framed by-laws and acted upon them, although they be ruinous to medicine and the health of the public, and are only adapted to serve their own selfish views. It is manifest that the health of his Majesty's subjects is as precious beyond the seventh mile-stone as in the metropolis, yet the College has given up requiring a licence from those who practise in the provinces, although its charter bound it so to do. Within the metropolis, the most arrant and impudent quacks,—as for instance, the *Doctors* Jordan, *Doctor* Eady, *Doctor* Courtney, &c.—pursue their avocations with the most glaring effrontery, and without the least molestation from the College of Physicians, which is bound by its charter to prosecute all quacks. Yet, when a well-educated and experienced physician, such for instance as Doctor Harrison, who, after studying under the ablest masters that the three most celebrated capitals in Europe could afford; and after being greatly distinguished whilst a pupil for his medical knowledge,* practised for a period of thirty years, and then came to the metropolis, he was prosecuted by a body, which allows a Doctor Eady, *et hoc genus omne*, to pursue their nefarious path unmolested;—and what is the meaning of all this? why, simply, that beyond the seventh mile-stone, the graduates of the Scotch Universities do not interfere with the practice of the Fellows, which is principally confined to the metropolis. The College, therefore, in its noble wisdom, prosecutes within its limits the *alieni homines*, as quacks; and beyond the seventh mile-stone, it virtually declares them to be well fitted to take charge of the health of the subjects of these realms!!

All this, and a great deal more, with the nature of which our readers are already acquainted from what has appeared in our pages, Sir Brooke Faulkner has told to the College, and subsequently published his letters, with an address to the Duke of Wellington.

This pamphlet does not less honour to the honesty of its author's heart, than to the powers of his mind; and may be considered as a prelude to the downfall of a College, the by-laws and persecuting conduct of which have long been almost universally admitted to

* The Doctor was President of the Royal Medical and Royal Physical Societies of Edinburgh, and a distinguished member of the Antiquarian Society of that city. He studied under Monro, the Hunters, and in Paris.

be a disgrace to the age in which we live. Sir Arthur is about to petition Parliament, to consider the constitution and present state of the College. We ought here to state, that this honest "Fellow" does not wish for a complete annihilation of the College, which in our opinion is the best thing that could happen; but he desires that the graduates of all universities, as well as of Oxford and Cambridge, where no medical school exists, should be considered qualified practitioners;* and that the College should prosecute all quacks. Of the uses to which this body might be applied, he thus expresses himself. "To take an instance or two at random; it might be referred to for deciding points of jurisprudence; be an efficient organ of government for constant official reference, in respect to the state of the public health; be consulted on the state of foreign climates, before sending expeditions to Walcheren; and hold meetings in conjunction with the other departments of the profession, for the common benefit of all."

It is evident, and we have often insisted on the fact, that it signifies little where a medical man acquired his degree; for it cannot make him a physician. Experience alone can form the real physician, and practice is the only test. The time is now gone by, when honorary distinctions can command practice; and the public, at the present day, places confidence in those only who possess talents and *practical* knowledge, without reference to the university at which they have been educated, or whether they be members of the College, or general practitioners.

The pamphlet of Sir Arthur Brooke Faulkner is written in an amusing, forcible, and elegant style; and we doubt not it will receive that attention from the highly-talented and patriotic Duke, who now guides the destinies of this mighty empire, which its own merits, and the vast importance of the subject of which it treats, demand.

MEDICAL CASE-BOOK FOR THE RECORD OF DISEASES, &c.

By W. R. Russel Wilton, Surgeon, of Gloucester.

This work, which we briefly noticed in the wrapper of our last Number, we consider one of the most valuable productions that has appeared in this country for many years. To every class of practitioners it will prove a great acquisition, by enabling them not only to keep an accurate statement of the diseases, and of the constitutions and peculiarities of their patients, but to report maladies of interest scientifically.

Of all the cases that have hitherto been published in the periodical or other works, not one in a thousand is scientifically related. In the reports of diseases in which any particular mode of treatment has succeeded, how very seldom are the stage of the malady, the temperament, the habits, customs, &c. of the patients, and other particulars, specified, which often so modify a disease as to render an opposite mode of treatment necessary. To the pupils or apprentices of practitioners, who are capable of properly filling up the columns, the work must not only prove a most valuable book of reference, but keep

* This was the original intention of the Charter.

their minds alive to *minutiæ*, and to the collection of such practical facts as will afford a sound foundation for their future practice, and form the practitioner, to whom a patient may confidently intrust the management of his affliction. Patients will also be considerably benefited by a minute record of their cases, not only by directing the attention of the practitioner to *minutiæ*, on which recovery often depends, but by having their peculiarities, effects of different remedies, on their stomachs, &c. recorded, to which at any future time the medical attendant may refer with important advantage. The *Medical Case-Book* will, no doubt, be used, by direction of government, by the surgeons in the army and navy; and it would be well for the public if every medical man was required, by act of parliament, to adopt it, and to produce it on trials or on inquests, in cases of sudden or suspicious deaths, or prosecutions for improper treatment. The heads of the columns of the work afford indisputable evidence of the author being a minute observer of disease, and a most judicious practitioner; and for its publication he will receive the thanks of every scientific member of the profession.

A TREATISE ON THE TEETH OF THE HORSE,

Translated from the French of M. Girard, by T. Irwin Ganly, *Veterinary Surgeon to the* 11*th Light Dragoons.*

Next to a knowledge of the anatomy of the human body, that of the horse is undoubtedly the most useful; for which of the inferior animals is to be compared, in point of utility, to him? It is unnecessary for us to inform our readers, that in this country, which posseses no peculiar or exclusive advantages for the breed of horses, these noble animals have arrived at a state of perfection, which is unequalled in any other portion of the universe. The great superiority of English horses is the result alone of the vast attention which has been paid to every particular connected with them. Their diseases and anatomical structure, have long claimed and received the greatest attention; but such is the slow development of knowledge, that it is only within these few years that the veterinary art has become so extensive, as justly to be entitled to the appellation of a science. No part of the structure of the horse has obtained a greater share of investigation than that of the teeth. Nor is this at all to be wondered at, since it is from them that the age, and consequently in a great measure the utility, of the animal is known. On this subject, many works have already appeared. Yet it is a fact, universally admitted, that the best judges of horses have no certain data to go upon in estimating the age of these animals at all periods of their lives. A practised eye can, it is true, generally form a correct opinion; but even the most instructed are very frequently deceived. Mr. Ganly, one of the best informed, and most experienced veterinary surgeons in Great Britain, aware of the deficiency, has endeavoured to supply it by the translation of the work of M. Girard, his friend and preceptor; and certainly we must bestow the highest praise on Mr. Ganly, for the discrimination he has evinced in selecting this work for translation, and for the ability with which he has executed his task.

With M. Girard's work in the original language, we are well acquainted; and we have no hesitation in asserting, that it is by far the

best upon the subject, and discloses a method of judging of the age of horses at all periods of their lives, which has hitherto been unknown.

After an excellent dissertation on the chemical composition and anatomical structure of the teeth of the horse, the author proceeds to point out his method of distinguishing with accuracy the period of life to which the animal has arrived,—and this he accomplishes in three ways,—by judging, 1stly, "of the protrusion and obliteration of the mark in the temporary teeth;—2dly, by the appearance and obliteration of the mark in the replacing or horse teeth;"—and, 3dly, by "the successive shapes that the teeth assume, and the diminution and disappearance of the central enamel." For a more particular account of the art of distinguishing the age of the horse, we refer our readers to Mr. Ganly's publication, which will be found highly deserving of the commendations we have passed on it, eminently useful to those who deal in horses, and highly gratifying to the amateur of those noble animals, by conveying to them much novel information.

It has been too much the fashion among the veterinary surgeons of this country to despise the knowledge of their brethren on the other side of the channel; but we can tell them, that although the breed of horses of England is undoubtedly superior to that of all other countries, still the French veterinary surgeons, during the time of Napoleon, were men of very superior information, and possessed much useful knowledge, which might be borrowed with advantage. We trust Mr. Ganly's work will be followed by other translations.

INSANITY.

Few occurrences have of late years excited a greater sensation in the public mind than the disclosures which were lately made before the magistrates of Union Hall, in the case of Mr. Francis Anderdon, a gentleman somewhat eccentric in his dress, and who supposed himself to be a *connoisseur* in paintings; but who was declared, by many competent persons, who had been long acquainted with him, to be perfectly sane in his mind. This gentleman drew a check on his brothers, of the firm of Anderdon and Bosanquet, bankers, Lombard Street, for money which had been lodged in their hands, and which the clerk refused to cash. In the evening two men entered the room of Mr. Anderdon, and informed him that they belonged to a lunatic asylum, and that he must consider himself as their prisoner. They presented a paper containing the following most extraordinary *order* as their authority.

"*By the directions* of Messrs. A. and J. Anderdon I authorise the bearers to take charge of Mr. F. Anderdon, he being insane, and to confine him to his own house, No. 2, York Street, York Road.

"(Signed) G. M. BURROWS, M. D.
"17, Montague Street, Russell Square."

Mr. Anderdon had presence of mind enough to open the window and call for assistance; by which means the keepers were given in custody, and these particulars were disclosed. On evidence it has appeared that two brothers go to a physician,—*one of that*

class called mad doctors, and who, on receiving a fee (no doubt a handsome one), grants the above order, which we believe has no parallel, to deprive a sane gentleman of his liberty. Of the motives which could call forth this display of *fraternal* affection we shall leave our readers to form their own opinion; but the *conduct* of the physician is much too outrageous to pass over without comment.

Dr. Burrows, a proprietor of a private lunatic asylum, is here proved to have written an order, to deprive a sane gentleman of liberty, without ever having seen him!!! and for no other reason than the representations of two brothers, whom he ought to have suspected might be interested, and probably the receipt of a handsome fee. The conduct of Dr. Burrows, who practises principally in cases of insanity, is in direct violation of the act of Parliament. No excuse can be offered for him, as it is impossible that he could be ignorant of the nature of the act. The laws in regard to insanity are at present so defective, that no individual is safe. Nothing is required but the representations of relatives to a mad doctor; who, without seeing the individual, writes a certificate, declaring him to be insane, and forthwith he is conveyed to a lunatic asylum!!! That class of medical men styled "*mad doctors*," who make a trade of insanity, and who know no more about the disease than those who practise in all the departments of medicine, if, indeed, half so much, see insanity in every act and look. The prospect of a fee, and of getting the supposed lunatic into their own asylum, operates in such a manner that any individual, however sane, would at once, by them, be declared a lunatic. It is a curious fact, that from *private asylums*, where a handsome sum is paid, we very rarely hear of a recovery; but from *public institutions* patients are weekly discharged perfectly cured. This fact speaks volumes.

An extraordinary instance of the facility of obtaining certificates, declaring sane individuals to be mad, lately came to our notice. A Mr. Hartland, a farmer, living near Bosbury in Herefordshire, who had dissipated part of his property, was declared by a medical man, at the instigation of his wife, to be insane, and was accordingly hurried to a private asylum, from which, by the interference of an attorney, he was liberated. Having discovered that his affectionate spouse again contemplated depriving him of his liberty, he determined to be beforehand with her, and sent two medical men to examine her, who declared her to be insane!! Arrangements were accordingly made to convey her to Worcester, where her husband was to be furnished by two surgeons (father and son) with a certificate of her insanity, and poor Mrs. Hartland was to have spent the remainder of her days in a lunatic asylum!!! On the morning when every thing was ready for her departure to Worcester, a person from a mad-house in Gloucester arrived with a certificate of the insanity of her husband, and he was, *sans ceremonie*, hurried to Gloucester, where he now continues a prisoner, although we believe him to be as sane as the keeper of the asylum, or the surgeon who signed his certificate. In fact, nothing is easier now-a-days than to obtain a warrant, declaring any individual whatsoever to be out of his senses; and that this facility is taken advantage of by interested relatives, to a very great extent, we

are fully convinced. A "mad doctor" ought never to be consulted in these cases; for, like the liver doctor, who discovers the effects of vitiated bile in every symptom, so he discovers insanity in every act and look of his patient. The evidence, however, of one of these doctors has greater weight in a court of justice or of law than that of twenty general practitioners or physicians, who have not devoted their time to this trade!! As to medical or any other treatment, the prisoners are generally under the care of keepers, who, if they become refractory, do not hesitate to make use of the strait-waistcoat.

Had not Mr. Anderdon had the opportunity of opening the window and calling in some friends to his assistance, he would probably at this time have been safely confined in a private asylum, under the superintendence of highly respectable keepers, conscientious men, capable of swearing lustily as to his general insane conduct or conversation, which nearly the whole herd of mercenary mad doctors would most readily confirm in a court of justice. We have no doubt many hundreds are confined in private mad-houses (wives, by their husbands, heirs to large property, by their nearest relatives, &c.) from motives of interest. In an early number we have noticed a case of a lady who was placed in a private asylum by her husband, merely to get her out of the way, that he might enjoy the society of a young woman to whom he had philosophically transferred his affection. She was liberated entirely through our interference.

We trust that the appalling occurrence which has been disclosed before the magistrates of Union Hall, and which has agitated the public mind in a very great degree, will incite some member of Parliament to bring the present defective laws, in regard to insanity, before the legislative bodies.

Since the case of Mr. Anderdon appeared in the daily papers, Mr. Hobler, a respectable solicitor, of Walbrook, has published in a Sunday paper, (the *Observer* of the 22d inst.) a somewhat similar proceeding against a respectable gentleman, of the name of Davies, who was put under restraint by the *order* of Dr. Burrows. The following is a copy of the Doctor's *warrant*:—

"*Montague-street, August* 4, 1829.

"The bearers are two of *my* attendants, authorized by the family of Mr. Edward Davies, *who is insane*, and ALSO by ME, to take charge of him, and convey him to his house at Hornsey.

(Signed,) "J. M. BURROWS, M. D.

"From the very great similarity of conduct pursued in the two cases, of Mr. Anderdon and Mr. Davies," says Mr. Hobler, "the public can form some idea of the facility with which a person may, in this *free* country, be deprived of his liberty at a moment's notice; and if he has not the good fortune to have some friends, who will ferret out his place of imprisonment, he may remain shut up the rest of his days, at the will of those, who, from some base motive, have instituted the proceedings."

DR. GOOCH, ON THE MOST IMPORTANT DISEASES OF WOMEN.

Dr. James Johnson has accused the highly respectable author of the above work of pilfering from the publication of Dr. Burrows, whose *name* at present does not require additional notoriety.

The following are the passages which have given rise to this serious charge:—

Dr. Gooch, 1829.	*Dr. Burrows*, 1828.
"It appears, therefore, that emotions of mind are capable of disturbing the corporeal functions; and though moral in themselves, they may be physical in their operation."	"All emotions of the mind, it is evident, are capable of disturbing the corporeal functions; and though in themselves moral causes, they become physical in their operation."

Now for a moment supposing that Dr. Burrows preceded Dr. Gooch in the publication of the statement that the mind acts on the body, which is the cream of the above passage, we can tell Dr. James Johnson that this is a fact which has been "lippis et tonsoribus notum" from time immemorial; and Dr. Gooch might just as well have been accused of pilfering the idea from any old nurse, who certainly could hardly be ignorant of this piece of *novel and important information!!* But the facts of the case are these: Dr. Gooch, nine years ago, published the above sentence in a paper which was read to, and highly approved of by, the College of Physicians. Eight years afterwards Dr. Burrows *borrowed* the passage; and because, in 1829, Dr. Gooch republishes his statements, he is accused by Dr. James Johnson, of *pilfering* from Dr. Burrows his *own* property!! The editor of a periodical work, in commenting on this plagiarism, admits that the observation was published by Dr. Gooch eight years before Dr. Burrows' work appeared; but he labours to make his readers believe that Dr. Burrows, having a *tenacious* memory, retained not only the thought but the phrase; and when, years afterwards, he wrote on the subject, found the sentence in his mind, and fancied that it had originated there!! We doubt not Dr. Graham, the most daring plagiarist that has ever appeared, and who, in composing his miserable and disgusting works, has employed the scissors more than the pen, would be happy to adopt the ingenious *conception* of the above friendly reviewer. The exposé of Dr. Graham's impudent pilfering, which has been made in our pages, will, however, prevent him from getting under this cover: and in a subsequent number Dr. Paris will find that he must be content to share the fate of that impudent plagiarist. Dr. Anthony Todd Thompson has been lately accused of borrowing from Dr. Duncan's Dispensatory. It is curious that Drs. Burrows and Thompson, who were formerly apothecaries, and associates in opposing an additional duty on phials, as affecting their *draught trade*, and who instituted a journal called *The Medical Repository*, to support *the trade*, should be brought before the public for such *liberal* and *honest* proceedings. It is to be seen how the "*Phial Doctors*" will defend themselves against these allegations.

In our review of Dr. Gooch's admirable work, in a preceding Number, we were sorry to find a mistake, which happened in consequence of our absence from town, and which though it was so glaring, that we doubt not our readers observed it, we feel it but justice to the author to take this opportunity of correcting. To the first part of our review, which was complimentary of the work, was added the termination of a critique on another book, and thus was made the contradictory jumble which appeared under the head of "Gooch on the most

important Diseases of Women." We, therefore, feel it our duty here to state, what indeed every member of the profession is already aware of, that Dr. Gooch's volume is by far the best, in point of information, novelty, and literary excellence, that has ever appeared on the subjects of which it treats, and will transmit his name to posterity as a great benefactor to science, and consequently to the human race.

MR. WALFORD'S COMPANION TO "*POST MORTEM*" EXAMINATIONS.

This is a work which has long been much wanted; for although numerous volumes have appeared on pathology, these are all more adapted for consultation in the closet, than reference at the time of dissection. It is very desirable, says Mr. Walford, that a practitioner should be able at once to identify appearances on dissection, with the descriptions, written and graphic, of the best writers on pathology. It is the object of "the Companion" to present to the practitioner, in a concise and condensed form, all the best descriptions of the phenomena of disease, which he may be able to consult on the spot, and be thus assisted in discovering, and forming a correct estimate of morbid appearances. The work is published in parts, and illustrated with numerous engravings.

The volume is dedicated to Mr. Wardrop, "without permission," on account of his exalted talents, urbane manners, and for having, in his well-known life of Baillie, and his other writings, greatly enriched pathological knowledge. In dedicating a work of this kind to a man so universally known, who stands so high in the favour of his Majesty, and who is so popular among all branches of the profession, Mr. Walford has shown not less good sense, than he has exhibited in the arrangement and detail of his volume; which is one that will supply a desideratum, which has long been felt, and will prove eminently serviceable to the cultivation of medical science. We cannot recommend it too strongly to our professional readers.

CANCER.

In our 166th Number, page 701, we have inserted a well-marked case of open cancer, which was cured by the topical application of a solution of chloride of lime, with the internal use of the alkaline principle of hemlock, termed conine, under the direction of Mr. Fielding, of Hull. We have now to notice another case of this formidable disease, which was cured by Mr. Buchanan, of Hull. The particulars of this interesting case, we shall insert in his own words, except his prescription, which we shall take the liberty to divest of its classic garb:—

"Jane Spencer, aged fifty-three, of Burton-Pidsey, in Holderness, was under my care, about two years ago, for cancer of the right breast. She had been several years affected with this dangerous and insidious disease, and had applied to various practitioners, in particular to the late Dr. Alderson, who advised extirpation by the knife, as the only means of saving her life. When she applied to me, the right breast was ulcerated to the extent of about two inches in diameter, including part of the nipple, and extending towards the arm-pit, with darting pains in the breast, chest, &c. As the patient was deter-

mined not to submit to any operation, I applied the tincture of iodine over the whole of the breast, and dressed the wound with the compound ointment of yellow resin. The ulcer healed gradually, but slowly; the pains diminished speedily, and in four days from the first application, she was entirely free from suffering. The parts when healed remained considerably indurated, but showed no loss of substance. This woman was one of the patients mentioned in my late work. In this state the breast continued nearly twelve months, when, in the beginning of June, 1829, the whole of the indurated parts were thrown off, leaving a foul fetid ulcer of upwards of two inches and a half in diameter, which speedily discharged a quantity of thin bloody fetid sanies. All her former symptoms of darting pains in the breast, chest, and armpit, returned with double violence. The patient continued to have the ulcer dressed with such ointments she could procure, till it became so nauseous, from the fetid smell of the discharge, as to affect not only her own health, but that of her son, who dressed the wound. In this state she applied to me, alleging that as she had found benefit formerly, she felt assured I could do her good this time also. Having, prior to this period, frequently used a weak solution of chloride of soda, as a gargle in ulcerations of the mouth and throat, as well as in foul ulcers, I was induced to apply this powerful medicine, in the case before me, of the following strength:—

Take of Solution of Chloride of Soda, 6 drachms;
Distilled Water, 8 ounces. Mix.

I dipped a pledget of lint into this lotion, and applied it to the diseased portion of the breast, with directions to keep the parts constantly moist with it; and directed her also to take two table-spoonsful of the solution three times a-day. The following day the discharge was of the colour and consistence of cream, totally free from any fetid odour. The ulcer healed rapidly, and the whole was soon covered with healthy skin; forming, however, a considerable depression from the loss of substance, as if part of the breast had been dug out. The cure was completed by the latter part of June, being little more than ten or twelve days from the time of the first application of the solution of the chloride, and with only six bottles of it, which were used topically and internally.

"It may be asked," says Mr. Buchanan, "whether I lay claim to originality in the mode of treatment? To this I beg leave to reply, that I wished to ascertain whether or not the cure would be permanent; and also to collate a few similar cases before publication, and thereby, if possible, obviate any unfavourable impressions which a late critique on my work might create, where it was remarked—'Mr. Buchanan undoubtedly merits commendation for the zeal he has displayed in the trials of the medicine (iodine), however divided opinion may be on the results. For our parts, we believe the author has been led away by that leaning in its favour, which all men must feel, in pursuing a particular inquiry.' Bearing in mind this observation, I abstained from the publication of this case, and waited patiently the result of time, that great test of all human discoveries, in order to remove any shadow of doubt as to the permanence of the cure. But learning, through the medium of the periodical press, the very

excellent cure of an open cancer made by Mr. Fielding, I thought it my duty to lay before you the history of the above case. Dr. Chalmers, an eminent physician of Hull, had repeatedly seen the case, and expressed, in terms of approbation, his opinion of the cure."

As a topical application for foul or degenerated ulcers, the chloride of lime is generally employed in preference to the chloride of soda. Where the ulcer is very foul and indolent, or where it is desirable to accelerate the sloughing process in cancer, or rather where the solution of the chloride of lime has little effect, the addition of a scruple of the chloride of iron to half a pint of the solution employed by Mr. Fielding, considerably increases its activity.

CHAPPED NIPPLES.

Mr. Bowden, surgeon, of Sloane-street, in a letter, addressed to the Editor of the *London Medical Gazette*, states, that he has astonished himself by the cures of fissured or chapped nipples, he has effected, by the application of the nitrate of silver (lunar caustic) in substance. This speedy mode of curing, "long an opprobrium of the healing art;" I cannot, says he, refrain from making known, for the benefit of the sex, and for the credit of Mr. Higginbottom. The chaps of nipples, which occur during suckling, are often exceedingly painful; and when the infant is put to the breast more than twice a-day, are very acutely sensible, and of course difficult even to palliate. We have known nervous mothers faint, from the acute pain produced by suckling, when the nipples were chapped; and, we have no doubt, the mammary glands are often so disordered by the pain and inflammation, as to occasion an unhealthy secretion of milk, capable of disturbing the bowels of the infant. If a female were to pay attention to the nipples during the last months of pregnancy, she would experience no pain or inconvenience from chaps. We have long been in the habit of directing females, during the last month of pregnancy, to besmear the nipples, every night and morning, with a mixture of olive oil (six drachms) and oil of turpentine (1 drachm), which we have always found to produce the desired effect; viz. prevention of chaps. If a part be cracked or inflamed, it would be right to remove the surface by the lunar caustic.

The propriety of applying this caustic to fissures of the nipples, during suckling, is very questionable; at any rate, it should be employed only under the direction of an experienced surgeon.

PARTIAL PALSY OF THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE FACE, &c.

An interesting case of this affliction (which of late years seems to have considerably increased in this metropolis) lately occurred in the hospital practice of Mr. Key. The patient, only six years of age, was admitted an in-patient of Guy's Hospital. His mother stated, that he had been subject to fits about four years ago, since which he had enjoyed good health, till within the last three weeks; when, on awaking, she had observed his face to be distorted. The paralysis of the muscles, on the right side of the face, had gradually increased; and, at the time of admission, extended to the angle of the mouth, the nostril, and partially to the upper eye-lid; there was a puffiness

over the right eye-brow; he was otherwise in good health. There was no discharge or affection of the right ear, to account for the paralysis of this portion of the seventh pair of nerves, which was evidently the cause of the complaint. His bowels had been obstinately constipated.

Mr. Key ordered two grains and a half of the compound calomel pill (Plummer's pill) to be taken every night, a small blister over the cheek-bone, and the bowels to be kept in a regular state by the occasional exhibition of castor oil. The blister was kept open about three weeks. Under this treatment the affection gradually decreased, and in five weeks he was discharged cured. Would not the application of strychnine, as recommended by the French surgeons (sprinkling it mixed with flour or hair-powder over the blistered surface daily), have accelerated the cure?

M. M. Andral, an eminent French surgeon, has published several cases of palsy of the upper extremities from the effects of lead, to which painters are subject, in which the exhibition of the strychnine, one-eighth of a grain, with the same quantity of brucine, had been administered twice a-day with the most decided advantage. In one case, of about a month standing, this composition effected a complete cure in the course of a fortnight.

INCONTINENCE OF URINE.

At a late meeting of the London Medical Society, Dr. Blicke stated that he had at that time under his care a case of incontinence of urine, in which he had found injection of the bladder very beneficial. The patient (a female) about thirteen years of age, had been affected with the malady for seven or eight years. Her power of retaining the urine was so limited, that she was always obliged to remain at home, and to have a urinal continually at hand, and at night the bed was constantly wetted. He had recourse to injection of the bladder as a remedial agent. The injection gave her considerable pain, but for forty-eight hours after it, she was able to retain her water tolerably well. Dr. Blicke admitted that he did not know the *cause* of the amelioration, and he only mentioned the case as a hint to his brethren. There is a great practical difference between incontinence of urine from a morbid sensibility of the bladder, either simple or from ulceration or inflammation, and incontinence from debility or palsy. When the cause is excessive irritation or sensibility, and the bladder has remained in a contracted state for many months, the slightest attempt to distend it by injection generally occasions acute pain, but the tepid water in a short time allays the morbid excitability; and if the distension of the bladder be very gradually increased, the cause of the malady will be removed. This was the practice with the late Mr. Jesse Foote, and we have met with many distressing cases in which, with attention to the state of the bowels and general health, it fully succeeded. In cases of long standing, where the bladder has remained in a contracted state for seven or eight years, a mechanical means, as by injection, for distending it, is necessary. In some cases of incontinence of urine from palsy of the sphincter muscle of the bladder, to which elderly

subjects are very liable, the strychnine vesication of the perinæum with the round-leaf cornel, as recommended by Dr. Robinson, has proved very beneficial.

TIC DOULOUREUX.

Mr. T. R. Cooper, of Guy's Hospital, has lately communicated to the medical profession a case of Tic Douloureux, in which the carbonate of iron, in the large doses recommended by the late Mr. Hutchinson, succeeded in effecting a cure. "The excessive violence of the pain prevented her from enjoying sleep, except during an occasional hour when there was some remission." She had never experienced tooth-ache, and all her teeth appeared sound. The perpetual agony she endured reduced her from a state of robust health to that of nervous debility, attended with indigestion, &c. She had employed, under the direction of a medical gentleman, different liniments and embrocations, aperients, and tonics, particularly sulphate of quinine. By the request of Mr. Cooper she agreed to give the carbonate of iron a trial. She commenced with twenty grains, mixed with treacle, four times a-day, and gradually added five grains to each dose till she arrived to forty grains. This quantity, although it excited a little nausea, she continued to take four times a-day for a week, when she was sensible of a considerable abatement of pain. After taking it a fortnight the stomach became reconciled to it, and the pain, which had been daily decreasing, entirely ceased, with an improvement of her general health. She then began to decrease the dose gradually till it came to four grains, when she discontinued it. During the use of the remedy she regained the ruddy colour of her cheeks, which had for a few months left her.

PREVENTION OF SEA-SICKNESS.

In a late Number, we noticed a remedy for the prevention of sea-sickness, introduced by Dr. Derbishire, a respectable English physician, residing at Boulogne-sur-mer. For this discovery, we find the Doctor has obtained a patent. The following is an office copy of his specification:

"Take of Crude Opium, two ounces;
Extract of Henbane, two drachms;
Powdered Mace, ten grains;
Hard Mottled Soap, two ounces.—Boil them in sixty ounces (about four pints) of soft water, for half an hour, stirring them well. When cold, add one quart of spirit of wine, sixty degrees above proof, and three drachms of spirit of ammonia. Rub a dessert-spoonful of this embrocation well over the lower end of the breast-bone, and under the left ribs, the latest time it may be convenient previously to embarkation, and again on board as soon as possible, and repeat it if necessary."

We have met with several gentlemen and ladies, who always experienced very distressing nausea and vomiting on crossing the Channel; but who, after using this embrocation as directed by Dr. Derbishire, did not suffer from either, even when the state of the sea was very unfavourable. The sympathy existing between the stomach and skin, accounts for the beneficial effects of this application.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.

Dr. Parrish, an experienced physician of Philadelphia, who has paid particular attention to this disease, states, in a communication to the Editors of the *North American Medical and Surgical Journal*, that the depleting practice generally adopted in the disease termed pulmonary consumption, cooperates with the malady in terminating life. He particularly notices the case of a young physician, whom the doctor and some other eminent practitioners could not persuade to submit to a depleting treatment (bleeding, purging, &c. with a low diet), because he had uniformly found it to accelerate dissolution. He resolved to pay attention to his stomach and bowels, and to go into the country to inure his body to exercise and a free open air. He was particularly partial to riding on horseback; and always finding this exercise to allay his cough, to afford great facility of breathing, and to improve his general health, he entered on a laborious country practice. During this time he lost all the symptoms of pulmonary consumption, and became a very healthy subject. He adopted a diet more generous than otherwise. The result of this treatment has induced Dr. Parrish to adopt it, and to recommend it to his brethren, who have found it equally beneficial. When a person strongly predisposed to pulmonary consumption is attacked with inflammation of the lungs or pleurisy, he recommends the depleting system; for in such case the inflammatory affection, if not subdued, will bring the latent malady into action; but when the disease takes place without such an exciting cause, he strongly recommends horse and other exercise in the open air, and a medium diet. This mode of treatment is by no means new. We have known it adopted, but never in a real case of pulmonary consumption with the smallest benefit. About twenty years ago we met with a case of incipient consumption, occasionally attended with slight spitting of blood. The patient, a young man about 24 years of age (Mr. I. Baker, of Bedford-street, Covent-garden), consulted Dr. Baillie. The Doctor, after ascertaining the nature of his affliction, advised him to mount his horse the following day and ride about twenty miles a-day till he arrived near the western coast, and there to take up his residence and ride at least sixteen miles a-day. The young man followed the Doctor's advice—he continued to cough violently, and to expectorate phlegm tinged with blood, and sometimes only blood, during his journey. Three days after his arrival he was a corpse. So much for taking horse-exercise in the open air when the lungs are really diseased!

MEASLES.

In an epidemical visitation of measles in the neighbourhood of Berlin, during autumn, Dr. Thayer, an eminent physician of that city, had recourse to cold lotions of vinegar and water to the whole surface of the body. While the epidemic lasted, there were 121 affected with the disease. Of fifty-two on whom the lotion had not been used, eleven died; whereas there was only one death out of sixty-eight on whom the practice was adopted, and even in this fatal case, in which there were pulmonary tubercles, the remedy had been used contrary to the advices of the doctor. The lotion was directed to be freely used when the temperature of the body was above 98° (Fahr.), with the understanding that there were restlessness and shortness of breathing. Such a practice should only be adopted under the superintendance of an experienced practitioner. If the lungs be in a state of inflammatory excitement, or symptoms be present indicative of inflammation of the pleura, or a disposition to pulmonary consumption, a practice calculated to diminish the circulation on the surface of the body, in our opinion, is more likely to prove injurious than otherwise.

OVARIAN DROPSY.

At a late meeting of the Westminster Medical Society, Dr. Thomson related a case of ovarian dropsy, in which the tincture of iodine, administered in a dose unusually large, succeeded in effecting a cure after the operation of tapping. Seven quarts of *albuminous* serum mixed with pus were drawn off. When the constitutional disturbance had subsided, (three days after the operation) the Doctor prescribed the tincture of iodine to the extent of thirty-six drops three times a-day. Under the influence of this medicine, the tumefaction of the diseased ovary rapidly subsided and her general health improved, so that in a few weeks she was perfectly well. She had been afflicted with the disease about three years.

This cure completed by the iodine, although a solitary one, is one of considerable interest, inasmuch as it corroborates the opinion entertained by some practitioners that iodine acts powerfully on the absorbent system.

Mr. C. Hawkins stated a case which afforded some confirmation of the reports of the anti-virilitant effects of iodine by some French physicians.

WORMS IN THE FRONTAL SINUS.

The Editors of the *Journal of Natural Science* have published an account, communicated by Mr. Rhind, of a worm, which was lately found by Mr. W. Brown in the frontal sinus of a sheep. It was about two inches in length, three-eights in breadth, and of the colour of white cream. Mr. Rhind observes, "It is certainly a singular question, and one of some interest, how this animal was generated in such a situation. It is," says he, "a cavity, one would imagine, *completely* excluded from all extraneous communication; and if any circumstance could favour the idea of *spontaneous* or *equivocal* generation, this is certaily a *strong* one." The frontal sinuses not only communicate with the nostrils by a continuation of the lining but by an opening, and the person who is acquainted with the fact of sheep being subject to worms or maggots in the nostrils, will not therefore be surprised to find a large one in a frontal sinus. Such worms are frequently discovered in the frontal sinus of the sheep of the Malvern Hills; and some "sheep doctors" attribute the disease, termed the staggers, to them. We know a farmer who, on finding a sheep giddy or staggering, makes an opening into the frontal sinus to remove the worm; and he assured us, that he has cured many by this operation. The circumstance of finding a worm in a cavity, communicating by an opening with the nostrils, certainly affords no proof of a spontaneous or equivocal generation.

THE ROUND SHORT WORM (*Ascarides*), CARIOUS TEETH, &c.

A correspondent informs us, that the diluted malic acid (the acid of the crab-apple), injected cold into the rectum, immediately destroys the vitality of small worms lodged in the lower intestines. He states, that a lavement of lime-water brings a few of them away alive, but that those which are evacuated after the use of the diluted malic acid are always dead. In some cases, he has found this injection to have a permanently good effect, the patients who had previously suffered much from the excessive irritation the worms produced, remaining free from them. We have, in a late number, noticed the destructive effects of the diluted malic acid on the animalculæ which abound in the mucous collection about the teeth, termed tartar. The existence of *the animalculæ*, noticed by Mr. La Beaume, we find is admitted by all scien-

tific dentists. Mr. Bew, who, we may venture to say, is second to no dentist in Europe, in science, or in having collected valuable facts from his experience, admits the existence of animalculæ; but he is of opinion, that the tartar is not a secretion from them, but that the animalculæ form after the collection has taken place; he also thinks, that they do not possess the power of penetrating the enamel. Be this as it may, it is certainly of consequence to remove the collection and its inhabitants as soon as possible, for they assuredly act, in some way or another, very injuriously on the enamel and on the gums. We have met with numerous cases of diseased teeth and gums, in which the diluted malic acid, used as directed by Mr. La Beaume, has had a surprisingly good effect in rendering the teeth and gums healthy. We have met with cases of ulcerated gums, attended with a diseased surface of the parts of teeth that came in contact with the ulceration, which were speedily cured by the use of the diluted malic acid, as directed by Mr. La Beaume.

Dr. Robinson, in his late valuable practical Treatise on the General and Local Debility of Elderly People, and on the peculiar Tonic Virtues of the Round-leaf Cornel, says, that the mucus which collects on the tongue, as soon as it becomes of a dark colour, contains animalculæ of the eel form, and they are the common cause of offensive breath, and also of indigestion; and it is common for dyspeptic or weakly people to experience a considerable relish for food, and mitigation of the symptoms of indigestion, after removing the slime, and destroying the animalculæ, by the lotion of the malic acid, by means of a soft brush.

The use of acids for cleaning the teeth has been very generally condemned by dentists, although we believe all of them employ the most powerful mineral acids, when performing the operation of scaling; but among this class of practitioners, the proportion of ignorant men is much greater than among any class of the lowest mechanics; not one in a hundred has had any medical education, and are totally ignorant of what acts injuriously or otherwise on teeth, and although they rail against the use of acids, merely because it is fashion, most of them use an active acid, and even pumice-stone, in their tooth-powders!!! An opinion which very generally prevails, that there is no difference between the malic acid and vinegar, is erroneous. Lead, with the *malic* acid, forms a salt insoluble in water, but with *vinegar*, a salt soluble in water; there are other chemical differences, but this fact alone is sufficient to prove that they do chemically differ.

INDIGESTION, SLUGGISHNESS OF THE LIVER, &c.

We continue to receive cases of indigestion, attended with sluggishness of the liver and intestines, in which galvanism, applied under the judicious direction of Mr. La Beaume, to the regions of the stomach, liver, and the course of the spinal cord, had been productive of the most decided advantage. In some cases which had resisted the blue pill and the sulphate of quinine, it succeeded in restoring the patient to perfect health. We shall select a few of the cases, which afford the most decisive evidence of the efficacy of this active philosophical remedy, in cases of indigestion and inactivity of the liver, to which those who have resided in a tropical climate are particularly subject, for insertion in our next number.

ASTHMA AND WINTER COUGH.

The oxysyrup of the bladder-podded lobelia (*lobelia inflata*) in the dose of one to two tea-spoonsful, in a little water, every three hours, has been found to act like a charm, in relieving spasmodic difficulty of breathing, and in

allaying the irritation in the windpipe, or chronic sub-inflammation of the membrane lining the windpipe, and its ramifications, on which winter-cough depends. As Dr. Andrews observes, it more effectually allays the asthmatic spasms, and unloads the air vessels of viscid phlegm, than any other medicine.

CHEMISTRY, THERAPEUTICS, &c.

FOREIGN EXTRACT OF PERUVIAN BARK.

Some English chemists, lately settled in South America, have made the extract of the Peruvian bark by spontaneous evaporation in the sun, of a cold infusion of the recent bark. This extract, we find to afford quinine; and we believe it to be the only foreign extract of bark which has yielded this alkaline principle. It has been satisfactorily ascertained, that the Peruvian bark is much deteriorated by the slight fermentation it undergoes during the time it remains in heaps; and in consequence of it, the extract, however easily made in this country, is very inferior to that made in Peru. The extract we have lately received from South America is a beautiul preparation, and contains, in a concentrated state, all the medicinal virtues of the bark. It is sent to this country by the English chemists settled in South America, at one half the price at which it was formerly charged, and at the same time very superior in quality. Instead of thirty shillings a pound, it may be obtained in this country at ten shillings.* A drachm of this extract is equal to an ounce of bark; indeed, the solution of a drachm in a pint of water is much stronger than a pint of the decoction of either of the dried barks. We recommend this foreign extract of bark to the attention of our professional readers. As a tonic, it is unquestionably inferior to the American extract of the round-leaf cornel.

HUGHES'S QUININE PILLS.

Some of our subscribers have expressed surprise that we should allow an advertisement of the quinine pills and essence of quinine, made by Messrs. Hughes and Co. to appear on our cover. As we have frequently stated, the advertisements for the cover are often sent to the printer without being read by us, and the correction of them is always left to the printer. In justice to Messrs. Hughes & Co. who are very respectable chemists, we must observe, that their preparations are made with the genuine sulphate of quinine, and do not belong to the nostrum-trade. A medicine is not to be condemned merely because it is advertised; indeed, a chemist or an apothecary does the public an essential service by giving publicity to a valuable medicine. It is the practice of advertising articles under a fictitious name, as a solution of opium for essence of coltsfoot or essence of horehound; a solution of corrosive sublimate of mercury as the essence of burdock root; and of powerful poisons, as a solution of arsenic, as the essence of an innocent vegetable, that we have exposed and condemned. Some advertised medicines, as the preparations of sulphate of quinine, by Messrs. Hughes & Co.; the preparation of sarsaparilla, by Messrs. Morgan & Co. are creditable to the makers, and valuable to the public.

* At the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.

SULPHATE OF QUININE.

Dr. Harty, member of the King's and Queen's College, has met with cases, in which the sulphate of quinine evidently hastened the effects of mercury, in producing salivation. He also states, that in some cases, the effects on the gums may be reproduced, by giving the sulphate of quinine alone, without any mercury. If this be a fact, it shows the necessity of not having recourse to the sulphate of quinine in cases of syphilis, as soon as salivation is produced, or when the palate is in a sloughy state from excessive salivation, a common practice with many surgeons of this metropolis.

CARRAGAHEEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

Sir,—The nutritive quality of the jelly of the Carragaheen, in cases of consumption or emaciation, and as a food for weakly children, having been first publicly noticed by you, I take the liberty to acquaint you with one very important property I have lately discovered it to possess, viz. that of being a most effectual *antizeumic* (a preventer of fermentation). A little of this jelly, added to that of arrow-root, or any other vegetable jelly or food, not only renders it more digestible, by preventing its becoming acid, (a common occurrence in weakly or nervous children) but also more nutritious. In this city the carragaheen is become a very favourite article of diet for weakly invalids, both young and old. I am, Sir, your constant reader and friend,

Dublin, November 6, 1829. M. D.

MIDWIFERY,

PROTRACTED LABOUR.

Mr. T. Calvert Girtin has communicated to Mr. Wakley nine cases of lingering labour, in which the powdered ergot of rye, administered in the dose of half a drachm, had a speedy effect in bringing the uterus into full action. Mr. Girtin observes, that he has never witnessed the least injurious effect from this remedy, either on the child or mother. The ergot of rye he employed in all the cases he has published, had been in his possession nearly four years. It has been generally supposed that after having been kept twelve months it is not fit to use.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

An opinion generally prevails among the members of the profession that the fever from parturition, technically termed "puerperal fever," arises from inflammation of the peritoneum (the membrane lining the abdomen, and covering the intestines, uterus, &c.). During a discussion on the nature of this fever, at a meeting of the London Medical Society, Dr. Ryan, an eminent lecturer on midwifery and experienced accoucheur, remarked, that all the eminent physicians who had *seen* the fatal or malignant puerperal fever of hospitals, unanimously agree that the disease is different from the fever arising

from or attendant on, inflammation of the peritoneum. In this phalanx were Doctors William Hunter, Hulme, Leake, John and Joseph Clarke, Young, Arthur and James Hamilton, Denman, Lamball, Douglass, Haighton, Lowder, Dewees, Gooch, and a host of others. They found the disease was not even to be arrested by bleeding, purging, &c. This was the general opinion, until Dr. Gordon, of Aberdeen, Dr. Armstrong, of Edinburgh, and Mr. Hey, of Leeds, advanced a different opinion; but the celebrated Dr. Hamilton denied that they described the *real* disease as *seen in hospitals*. It appeared, said Dr. Ryan, from microscopic appearances observed during the ravages of the disease in Vienna, in 1819, that the neck and mouth of the uterus were first affected and found gangrenous, and there the depleting plan of treatment (by bleeding, &c.) was also unsuccessful. This is so well known to those who have really seen the disease, that in a clinical report of the Dublin Lying-in Hospital, lately published, general bleeding was not resorted to, because it had been *always* found useless. The internal and external use of mercury, continued Dr. Ryan, and the like use of oil of turpentine after active leeching, were the means employed, and these unsuccessfully. Dr. Gooch also states that bleeding is not the proper remedy. Those, observed Dr. Ryan, who have described the disease as inflammation of the peritoneum, have only seen patients in private practice, and it is well known that malignant puerperal fever is seldom to be observed out of hospitals. Mr. Waller and Mr. Doubleday also gave their decided opinions that puerperal disease *totally* differs from inflammation of the peritoneum. Dr. Walcheman stated that he never knew the disease communicated by infection, though he was aware that many eminent men have asserted to the contrary. Mr. Brown, an experienced and scientific surgeon and accoucheur, said, that he had bled freely in inflammation of the peritoneum following parturition, and generally with success. His cases occurred in private practice. He did not give an opinion as to its being similar or dissimilar to puerperal fever. In corpulent and plethoric subjects, where the head of the child passes with great difficulty through the pelvis, there is generally such a considerable determination of blood to the head as to disturb the brain, and, secondarily, the vascular system; and in such subjects we have observed the fever to precede any symptom of inflammation of the uterus, or of the peritoneum. When fever comes on without any such previous disturbance of the brain, the pain in the uterus or bowels, with distension of the abdomen, commences with the febrile symptoms, and advances with the fever. Probably the mischief often takes place in the substance of the uterus, and extends to its peritoneal covering, and from it spreads to that of the intestines, &c.; for in most of the cases which proved fatal, the walls of the uterus and its peritoneal coverving were found much more inflamed than the peritoneum of the intestines, &c. The brain was also highly inflamed. Now, as to the puerperal fever which occurs in hospitals, we believe dissection has proved that inflammation of the peritoneum is a common, if not a uniform attendant. Like the sympathetic fever of compound fractures of the lower extremities, it is so modified by the confined air,

or some other agent which has not been discovered, as speedily to exhibit symptoms of typhus, in which bleeding (if delayed two or three days after its first attack) would tend only to hasten the patient to the grave. It is a curious fact, that the *malignant* puerperal fever, like the "fatal and *malignant* fever" of compound fractures of one of the lower extremities (for such it may with equal propriety be termed), only occurs in the hospitals of large and crowded places, as London, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, Edinburgh, Dublin, &c. During our residence at the Hereford infirmary, we did not lose one patient out of fifty with a compound fracture of the leg or thigh; and during our attendance at St. Bartholomew's hospital all the patients that were admitted with the same kind of accidents, fell a sacrifice to this peculiar fever. We presume Dr. Bryan does not mean to assert that the malignant puerperal fever of hospitals is independent of, or unaccompanied with inflammation of the peritoneum or of the uterus. All fevers are more or less modified by the temperament of the patient; and the propriety of bleeding or of a depleting treatment must, we conceive, depend on the constitution; so says common sense, and so say the results of our experience in such cases.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE SIAMESE UNITED TWINS.

This interesting natural curiosity of the twins, united by a band, apparently connected with the cartilage of the false ribs and a portion of the sternum (as represented in the margin), was exhibited to a select party of medical gentlemen, at the Egyptian Hall, on Tuesday, the 24th instant. Among this private levee of "medical philosophers" we observed the Presidents of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, Sir Anthony Carlisle, Sir Astley Cooper, Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Brodie, Mr. Brookes, Dr. Babington, Dr. Holland, Dr. Haslam, Mr. North, Dr. Bree, Mr. Cliff, and other leading members of the profession, to the number of about one hundred. The exhibition in a short time filled our mind with subjects for philosophical reflection; but our attention was soon diverted from it by the most amusing (often ludicrous) questions and observations of the physicians

and metaphysicians who thought themselves entitled to take a lead in the investigation. Some really supposed, that although each has a brain, there is only one sensorium;—that there is a vascular connexion between the two hearts by means of the band;—that nutrition is conveyed from one to the other, and consequently that it is only necessary for one to take food. Some were of opinion that a division of the cord in the centre would be attended with no risk; while others considered the band in the light of an umbilical hernia, and consequently that a division would necessarily prove fatal.

When Sir Astley Cooper entered the room, all crowded around him on tiptoe to hear *his* opinion. Sir Astley, after carefully examining the band, observed that it consisted chiefly of cartilage (gristle) and skin. Mr. Thomas, the President of the College, with a significant smile, emphatically observed, "I am sure, Sir Astley, *you* would not hesitate to divide the band." Sir Astley "smilingly replied," "Indeed I do not say that:—the partnership seems to be going on prosperously, and a dissolution of it would prove ruinous to their trade." After Sir Astley had acted his part, Sir Henry Halford, the President of the College, advanced to *look* at the band; but not one person attended him, or seemed desirous to hear *his* opinion. The only physiological observation he made, was, that he thought his Majesty would like to see them! Sir Anthony Carlisle gave his opinion that the membrane lining the abdomen (peritonæum) extends throughout the band, and therefore a division of it would endanger life. Dr. Haslam seemed to contemplate their physiognomical and phrenological characters, and expressed regret that he could not ascertain their mental powers by conversation, in consequence of their being unacquainted either with the English, Greek, Latin, or the Hebrew language. All seemed to view the phenomenon with astonishment. The pleasing docility—*strong* attachment to each other—and the power of observation they evinced on examining the furniture, &c. of the room, and the delight they seemed to experience in answering interrogatories, gave such general satisfaction, that all seemed to feel a great interest in their welfare.

The Editors of all the newspapers published in this metropolis have given such detailed accounts of the history, appearances, and every thing connected with them, that is in any way interesting, either in physiology, or the other medical sciences, that we have little to add to it. To us, an explanation of the phenomenon appears very simple. It is clear from the mark in the centre of the uniting band, showing where the navel-string was divided, that there was only one navel-string, and consequently only one placenta. The navel-string, in our opinion, bifurcated within a few inches of the twins, and the divided portions being covered with skin, the navel-string was divided at the time of their birth at the bifurcation. The veins, arteries, membranes, &c. of the umbilical cord, in time thickened, in the same manner as the vein of it does in the adult, forming the ligamentum rotundum. The interior of the band has been gradually increasing in firmness, and is now becoming cartilaginous, and has formed an attachment to the cartilaginous portion of the false ribs and sternum. That the veins of the umbilical cord, and the arteries, passed through the band, cannot admit of a doubt, and why not the coats and its gelatinous contents? The portion of the umbilical cord next the fœtus is always the largest, and we have seen it so loaded with gelatinous substance, as to be nearly as large as the wrist of a child. The skin of the abdomen often extends a little way up the umbilical cord. To a medical man, we think these boys can prove interesting, only as showing the force or influence of habit. There is clearly no nervous connexion through the medium of the band; and, as to the circulation in it, it is, we conceive, similar to that which takes place between the skin when

united by adhesive inflammation. "Though they have," as the editor of the *Times* observes, "their separate purposes, sentiments, and volitions, their memory, and other mental faculties, as distinct as if they were 'far as the poles asunder;' though their nervous systems, their circulation, and bodily organs, with all their functions, are likewise as independent, as if the band which connects them were a metalic hinge, it would necessarily follow that (with the same degree of original resemblance as many other twins) being bound to each other for eighteen years, being obliged to take the same exercise, to go to bed at the same time, being nourished with the same food, breathing the same atmosphere, and being treated in every respect in the same manner; their frames might be expected to harmonize as much as they are represented to do. None of the facts, authentically stated, show that there is any further interchange of sensation, or feeling, than their perpetual proximity would occasion." That the band may be divided exactly in the centre with impunity, we have not the smallest doubt; and had the mother been delivered in this country, this would probably have been done at the time of their birth.

As to the idea of the band containing a portion of the intestinal canal, or even omentum, we think it erroneous; for on a most careful examination, we could not discover any indication of the presence of either. If the end attached to the abdomen does become a little fuller from protrusion of intestine on coughing, which we could not discover, it amounts only to umbilical hernia; and the protrusion not extending it's full length, no objection can be raised on that account to the operation. The idea that the cartilaginous part will become so callous or ossified, as to render the operation impracticable, is also in our opinion erroneous, for it appears to us that it would render it more safe. In the centre of the band, there is evidently a kind of joint, which admits of its being bent; and when they stand abreast, it exhibits the appearance of an elbow. It is not improbable, that from frequent motion, a connexion has formed similar to that which takes place in fractured bones that do not unite by callus, generally termed an artificial joint.

These boys are to be again examined by a levee of medical philosophers this day (Saturday the 28th); but as it will not take place till the afternoon, we should not have time to notice the results till our next Number.

There is nothing disgusting in the exhibition; indeed, those ladies, who have visited them, have been much pleased with their peculiar placidity of countenance, and we may add, gentleness of manners.

DR. BURROWS AND MR. F. ANDERDON.

Since the article was written on the apparently extraordinary conduct of Dr. Burrows, in attesting the insanity of Mr. F. Anderdon on the mere representation of his brothers, a letter has appeared in the *Morning Chronicle*, from the Doctor, in which he attempts to prove that the proceedings were professional and not illegal. The following is the part which bears on the subject:

"I unequivocally admit that *medical* examination of a suspected or alleged lunatic should always precede, where it is possible, his being placed under restraint. But many cases must and do occur where that preliminary is wholly impracticable. The case of Mr. F. Anderdon is precisely one of that description. The unsettled wandering habits of this gentleman presented an insuperable obstacle to an interview with him; and it was represented to

me that, to preserve him from utter ruin, he must be placed under restraint by the following evening.

" Some of the eccentricities in the person and dress of Mr. F. A., but by no means all of them, have been described in the police report. But these eccentricities are not confined to external appearances; and as they are notorious and relevant, I may give publicity to them.

" Although still a young man, this gentleman has several years estranged himself, without any known cause, from his highly respectable relations and connexions; and shunning all human association, taken up his abode in a very obscure, disreputable part of Lambeth Marsh. There he resides, in a small, miserable, dilapidated house, with broken windows, and a few iron bars across the lower one. It may be inferred that he has few visitors; for neither the gate of the fore-court nor house door has bell or knocker. He lives a solitary being, without any servant or inmate. His meals he takes at cook-shops, where the lower orders resort. No one knows when he goes out, or will return, or can give any account of his movements.

" Let me ask, here, how an interview and medical examination was to be obtained within twenty-four hours with such a peculiar character?

" Had he by chance been found at home, murder might have been the consequence of intrusion; for he was said to be likely to make a desperate resistance, and was well known to keep loaded fire-arms at hand.

" With a most anxious desire for me to obtain an interview with their brother, before restraint was imposed on his actions, Messrs. O. and I. Anderdon undertook to employ themselves, next morning, in ascertaining if any way presented of effecting it. They met the following afternoon at my house, in Montague-street, by appointment, and reported the failure of their endeavours. No alternative being left, instructions were then given to two of my attendants, who had been ordered to meet those gentlemen, and they were directed as to the best and safest probable mode of executing their duty. Their directions were, to exercise every delicacy and caution towards Mr. F. Anderdon—to watch his return home—to accost him at his gate before he got in-doors—to tell him candidly for what object they came—and to use no violence; but endeavour to persuade him to permit their continuance with him in his own house till the following morning. And here I shall take leave to correct one of the numerous falsehoods circulated, viz. that the domestic privacy of Mr. F. Anderdon was violently broken in upon, by the entrance of two keepers into the room where he was sitting. The fact is, they never crossed his threshold, or entered his house in any manner. Indeed, how were they to gain such admission, when no one, according to the account published of the transaction, was in his house, except himself, to open the door? Were the men likely to effect an entrance secretly, at the risk of being shot?

" Mr. F. A. being at the gate of the fore-court, immediately cried out for aid; and the keepers were instantly seized, never having had charge of him.

" That the keepers entirely conformed to the humane directions they received, that gentleman himself acknowledged openly at the Police Office, by shaking hands with one of them, and thanking both for their civil and proper behaviour. Yet these agents, who so well conducted themselves in executing one of the most delicate and often dangerous duties that can be undertaken, were handcuffed like felons, thrust into the black hole of the watch-house with the vilest wretches, denied their repeated requests for pen, ink, and paper, to communicate their situation, and were thus kept imprisoned for sixteen hours, and were then dismissed by a magistrate for want of any charge against them.

"Some imagined that I signed a certificate to convey Mr. F. Anderdon to an Asylum for Lunatics. This is a wilful error. The sole object intended and expressed was, to keep him in his own house; being the only practicable means of insuring such a medical examination as was necessary to be instituted previous to an application for a Commission of Inquiry into the state of his mind.

"Others conceive that an opinion on the sanity or insanity of a person's mind ought not to be formed and decided upon on any representations at all. Yet, from the history of a case, we often draw the clearest inferences, while a personal examination without it will elicit nothing.

"In ourcourts of Judicature medical opinions are permitted to be received respecting the soundness or unsoundness of a mind, though the witness may never have seen the alleged lunatic."

REPORT OF DISEASES.

The medical harvest, which generally commences in October, has been unusually late this year, and for some weeks exhibited appearances very depressing to every class of practitioners, as well as to those real friends to medicine, denominated undertakers. The metropolis, for the whole of October and the early part of the present month, was so unusually healthy, that the medical tribe, instead of being occupied in chasing Death through the streets, have employed their time in making politic visits; and the circumstance of finding their "*dear fee* friends" in possession of sound health had a very sensible effect on their countenances,—always affording accurate indications of the state of the health of the metropolis.

The latter half of the present month has, however, proved more cheering. The diminished temperature of the atmosphere, and the prevalence of a north-east wind, have given a prospect of a productive harvest, and have already had the effect of bringing the enemies of death into the field in fine spirits. Catarrhal affections, pleurisy, inflammation of the lungs, acute rheumatism, scarlet fever, and inflammation of the bowels, are very general. They have, for the most part, been very mild, yielding to aperient and sudorific medicines, without the usual auxiliaries—bleeding and blistering. In catarrhal cough, the lettuce lozenge, made with the inspissated white juice of the garden lettuce, gum arabic, extract of liquorice, ipecacuhan, &c. as directed by Professor Duncan, has proved very beneficial, speedily allaying irritation in the wind-pipe, promoting expectoration, perspiration, abating fever, &c. In asthma and the chronic cough, generally termed winter cough, the oxysyrup of the bladder-podded lobelia herb (lobelia inflata) has uniformly had a specific effect; in some cases, terminating the asthmatic fit in a few minutes. In regular and irregular gout, both of which prevail among the *bon vivants*, the ammoniated tincture of the colchicum *seeds*, (a tea-spoonful twice a-day) with camphorated julep (a small wine-glassful) generally terminated the paroxysm in two or three days; and the infusion of the chirayita herb (three table-spoonsful three times a-day) with the carbonate of soda, (a scruple) has succeeded in establishing sound health. For chilblains, and for rheumatic affections of the joints, the naptha liniment, and the sweet bay liniment, (noticed in our last number) have proved more beneficial than the cajeput liniment, or any of the remedies in common use. In cases of debility, local or general, the round-leaf cornel is a most excellent remedy,

always agreeing with the stomach, improving digestion, and regulating the bowels. In cases of hooping cough, which prevails in some parts of Yorkshire, the oxysyrup of the lobelia inflata has been administered with great success. Small-pox is very general throughout the country; and, we regret to say, has proved very fatal, even to those who had been vaccinated. Revaccination, which is recommended by some eminent practitioners, it seems has apparently succeeded in affording security against the contagion.

QUACKERY.

Mr. John St. John Long has announced, by advertisement in some of the public papers, his intention of shortly publishing a New System of Medicine!!! By this artful mode of puffing (the puff oblique) this contemptible pretender is weak enough to suppose that he will be able to revive his fee trade. The book, we have no hesitation in predicting, will never appear. John Bull has for ever done with his humbug, to the no small regret of some undertakers who live in his neighbourhood; one of whom, we are told, received four hundred pounds for conveying one of his *cured* patients into Suffolk.

ALKALINE SOLUTION.

A dilute solution of pure potass is sold by a low druggist in the Strand by appointment of Dr. Graham, the notorious plagiarist, under the name of alkaline solution, as a remedy for indigestion. In cases of indigestion attended with acidity in the stomach, this alkaline solution, as it is empirically termed, may afford relief by neutralising the acid, but without a tonic medicine the effect will be temporary. But when an acid does not exist, such a powerful caustic is capable of acting very injuriously on the stomach. We have lately met with a case of indigestion in an elderly person, on whose stomach it acted so injuriously as to induce a most alarming degree of debility. A bottle of this alkaline solution, the contents of which only cost three half-pence, is charged *4s. 6d.* !!!

THE MALTA EXOTIC.

A certain remedy for the head-ache, stupidity, and nearly all the diseases that assail poor human nature, composed of snuff flavoured with aniseeds—the Malta Exotic!! John Bull, it seems, was up to snuff, and the Malta-exotic humbug has met its fate; we wish we could say as much of the *scientific* proprietor.

QUACKERY OF BAKERS.

Biscuits, chiefly composed of wheaten flour, carraway seeds, and sugar, are puffed off under the sanction of the *name* of Mr. Abernethy. The composition unfortunately happens to be that which he condemns. The sugar they contain runs rapidly into the acetous fermentation in an irritable or nervous stomach, and thereby tends to keep up the morbid state of excitement of the stomach, so as to disturb the head, and often the whole nervous *system.*